Crime — 1925.

See Also: Killings
Lynchings
Temperance

Crime—1925.

Alabama.

HUNT IS RENEWED FOR CRAZED NEGRO

Bloodhounds Taken From Montgomery to Pike County; Search On in Houston

Hunt for J. C. Williams thought to be the crazed negro who has killed three negro women was renewed in Houston and Pike counties, Tuesday night but capture had not been effected early Wednesday morning.

While posses headed by Deputy Sheriff John Scoggins of Montgomery county began a search for the negro in Pike county near China Grove, a posse headed by Sheriff Tatum which included about 25 negroes armed with shot guns, pistols and razors was scouring a swamp northeast of Dothan according to advices from there.

The hunt was started at Dothan Tuesday afternoon after a negro woman had told officers that a black answering the description of Williams had been to her house and asked for something to eat. The woman said the negro asked about the trouble around Troy and said he had been in some trouble which forced him to travel at night. Several negroes reported that they saw him enter the swamp. Williams is well known in Dothan having been sentenced in Judge Buntin's court last November to a term in the penitentiary.

Accompanied by Deputy Sheriffs Massingill, Mosley and H. C. Sanders and newspapermen, Deputy Sheriff Scoggins went to Pike county early Tuesday night carrying four blood hounds. The trip was made following a telephone message from John Sullivan farmer of the China Grove community saying that it was believed the negro was in hiding in the vicinity.

The second victim of the crazed negro, Mattie Lee Williams was killed near China Grove. Her body was found Thursday tied to a tree. Magnolia Jones, the first negro killed was found Monday a week ago. The third victim was Rose Brown who lived near Ansley.

NEGRO ROPE SLAYER IS STILL AT LARGE

Dothan Suspect Proves To Be Wrong Man; No Clues Found to Whereabouts

With every nook and cranny of the lower section of Montgomery and upper half of Pike counties combed by searching parties, Monday search for the crazed negro who during the past [illegible] Dothan, where he was reported to have gone Friday.

Police [illegible] said that they were watching for the negro, but refused information on the progress of their investigation.

It was learned however, that the negro, which a conductor of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad said boarded his train at Troy for Dothan Friday, had been apprehended but did not measure up to the requirements of the suspected negro, J. C. Williams.

The Williams negro is well known to police in Dothan, it was said, as he had been convicted there for a petty crime more than a year ago.

Chief Deputy Sheriff John Scogins, with Deputies Massengil, Rudder and Mosley, again participated in a search in Pike county Monday, which centered about Briar Hill. They returned to Montgomery about 1 o'clock. The officers went to the scene in answer to a report that the negro had been apprehended.

The officers admit that unless something occurs soon to throw light upon the fugitive's whereabouts, they are near the end of the search. Not the slightest clue has been found that would shed light as to the course he took following his third crime. The three women were killed last week, the first Monday, the second Thursday and the third Friday. A rope was used with a slip noose knot to capture his victims and render them senseless by strangulation.

CONVICT WINS SUIT FOR WAGES AGAINST STATE

Court of Appeals Affirms Lower Court in Case of Newt Wilson, Who Elected to Serve Time

Under decision of the Alabama court of appeals, announced Tuesday, Newt Wilson, a native of Randolph county is entitled to recover from the state the entire amount of money which he claimed was earned by him while he was serving a term in prison pending action of the high court on his appeal from judgment of conviction in the case. In the trial court he was convicted of distilling and sentenced to imprisonment for four years. He appealed and elected to serve his term in prison during the pendency of the appeal. After some 18 months the court of appeals, acting in the appealed, reversed the case, granting a new trial. On second conviction, Wilson received a sentence of a year and a day in prison and thereafter brought suit to collect his claim against the state for earnings while his appeal was pending.

The style of the case on appeal was W. B. Allgood, auditor v. State, ex rel Newt Wilson.

This suit based on the claim for earnings, was filed in the Montgomery circuit court, the total amount of the claim being $425. The plaintiff claimed that he had served part of his term pending appeal at Banner mine, and that while there, the state received for his labor $349.58, the remainder of the time being served at Kilby prison, at which place it was estimated by prison authorities, his time was worth fifty cents a day as a farm laborer, making the aggregate amount of the claim $425. The Montgomery circuit court held he was entitled to recovery to this amount which judgment a majority of the court of appeals, Tuesday, affirmed.

It was held by the court of appeals that whenever a person convicted of a felony elects to serve his term in the penitentiary pending appeal to the court of appeals, the state thereby assumes the burden of his maintenance as well as management and upon a reversal of his case, under sction 3672 of the code of Alabama of 1923, he is entitled to receive the amount which the state would have received from the proceeds of his labor if judgment of the trial court had been affirmed. It was the contention of the state that under the law, in such a case, the plaintiff was entitled to the net receipts from his labor instead of the gross receipts. The statute however, it was brought out by the court of appeals, states that the amount to be paid the prisoner is the amount the state would have received if the case had been affirmed.

A majority of the court of appeals ruled that the plaintiff Newt Wilson, was entitled to the whole amount of the claim, namely $425. Associate Judge W. H. Samford, however, contended that Wilson was entitled only to the money actually received by the state from the labor of Wilson or $349.58.

In the trial of the suit in the Montgomery circuit court, for collection of the claim, Wilson the plaintiff, was represented by T. B. Hill. In addition to the ruling of the court of appeals in this case applying to similar cases which may arise in future, it is understood that it may also apply to similar cases which may have occurred in the past since adoption of the act under the provisions of which the suit brought by Wilson was instituted.

MARTIN INDICTED ON MURDER CHARGE

Tax Assessor of Russell Held Without Bail For Killing Negro

SEALE, ALA., March 31.—Special to The Advertiser.—The grand jury recalled today to investigate the alleged killing here Sunday of Ed Ellis, negro, by [illegible] Martin on indictment of first degree murder.

Martin is now in jail. The court is in session, but it is not known if the trial will be had in the case at this term. Martin is county tax assessor and is prominently connected in the county. Whiskey is alleged to be the cause of the crime.

COLORED WOMAN TO HANG

IN ALA.—STAY REFUSED—HUSBAND ALSO TO HANG—COLORED WOMEN'S CLUB TO WORK TO PREVENT

Birmingham, Ala., May 21.—Mrs. Pearl Jackson, Alabama "ax" murderess," was doomed last Friday morning to die on the scaffold of the Jefferson County jail on June 19, the first woman to be hanged in Alabama since the Civil War.

The Supreme Court denied her petition for a re-hearing of the murder trial in which she was convicted by a Birmingham jury.

Husband Also to Hang

Her husband, Odell Jackson, convicted with her, will also be hanged in all probability.

WILLIAMS HANGED FOR THREE CRIMES

Negro Shows Little Feeling As He Mounts Scaffold at Troy

BY GEORGE DAVIS
Staff Correspondent

TROY, ALA., July 3.—With little show of emotion and a prayer on his lips, J. C. Williams, negro "rope strangler" who terrorized Montgomery and Pike counties with the murder of three negro women in as many weeks last March, paid the supreme penalty for his crimes on the gallows here Friday morning.

The trap was sprung at 8:31 o'clock and 12 minutes later all visible signs of life had disappeared. Williams was not officially pronounced dead, however until about 30 minutes afterward.

A crowd estimated from 3,000 to 5,000 persons thronged the narrow streets surrounding the jail and perched upon roofs of adjoining buildings for more than an hour before the execution. The hanging, however, took place in a carefully constructed enclosure that projected ten feet above the platform.

At the last moment after the black cap had been adjusted the condemned negro called for Sheriff W. C. Carroll and asked that he be permitted to shake hands with a negro woman, whom he said was in the crowd. The request was denied as the woman could not be readily found.

Then with a muttered prayer and the words "goodbye, everybody goodbye" he dropped to his death.

Williams mounted the scaffold at 8:20 o'clock between Deputies W. M. Hood and W. E. Furlong. He walked steadily and when brought suddenly face to face with the dangling rope, showed but the slightest trace of emotion.

Assisting these deputies were Deputies J. P. Rammage and John C. Cotton, Chief of Police L. E. Fitts and Special Deputies J. R. Herndon and Victor Burdacker.

Williams was called from his cell about 7:45 o'clock and presented with a new blue work shirt by Warden Hood.

"Well, this is a good shirt to send a fellow to H— in," the negro commented.

He was taken into the jail yard at 8:02 o'clock and made a lengthy statement in which he declared the law had been unfair to him, as a negro, Mabel Underwood, whom he had before incriminated, aided in the slaying of the women.

"If I'm guilty, she is guilty" Williams declared.

He admonished the younger folk to remain at home with their "forefarents." "Don't wander away or you'll go the same road I'm going," he said. He declared he had made peace with his God and was "ready to go."

He expressed thanks for the kindness of Sheriff Carroll, Warden Hood and the Rev. Fields, a negro minister.

Williams was arrested in Dothan about two months after the body of victim No. 3, Rose Brown, was found packed in a barrel in a meat house at her home in Pike county, with her skull fractured with an axe and the imprint of a rope deep in the tissues of the neck. Victim No. 2 was Mattie May Williams, whose body was found bound to a tree near Orion in Pike county with the neck broken. Victim No. 1 was Magnolia Sims, who was strangled with a rope and the body hidden in a ditch near Ramer, in Montgomery county. The body was discovered following a heavy rain.

In a statement to officials and taken by a court reporter, Williams admitted murdering two other women in Georgia. He said his name is Garfield Robinson and that he was a native of Mitchell county, Georgia. He had spent most of his life serving time for various crimes, he said.

HANGING OF GIRL IN ALA. IS DELAYED

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 25 —Saved from the stark, wooden

arms of the gallows by a last-minute reprieve of Governor W. W. Brandon, Mrs. Pearl Jackson tonight is awaiting the passage of time until July 17, while friends and various organizations fight ceaselessly to avoid the hanging the first, if it happens, in the history of the state.

Mrs. Jackson, along with her husband, Odell Jackson and Peyton Johnson were charged with the murder of a white man. The case aroused wide interest and the woman, along with the two men, was sentenced to die on the gallows.

Johnson, however, secured another trial, and it was pointed out that at this second trial additional evidence, which has been discovered, will be presented. The Governor granted the stay of execution in the cases of the Jackson couple pending the retrial of their alleged confederate.

It is also pointed out that Mrs. Jackson's part in the killing was at the command of the two men.

JONES TO PRESIDE AT JOHNSON TRIAL

Montgomery Judge is Assigned Temporarily to Jefferson Circuit Court Bench

Chief Justice John C. Anderson of the Alabama supreme court has assigned Judge Walter B. Jones of the Montgomery circuit court to temporary duty on the Jefferson circuit court bench, where he will preside during the trial set for July 6, of Peyton Johnson, negro, charged with murder. Assignment of Judge Jones to temporary duty in Jefferson county to try this case was necessitated, it is stated, by the fact that several judges of the Jefferson circuit are now on vacation and it is the desire of authorities that Johnson be brought to trial as speedily as possible.

Peyton Johnson, is a codefendant with two other negroes, Pearl Jackson and Odell Jackson, who were convicted of murder in connection with the slaying of John Robert Turner, a white man and upon whom sentence of death was imposed. On appeal to the high court, judgment of the trial court was affirmed in the cases of Odell Jackson and Pearl Jackson. Peyton Johnson's case however, on appeal, was reversed and remanded for another trial.

In affirming sentences of Odell and Pearl Jackson, the supreme court of Alabama set Friday, June 19 as the date for their execution. On the date prior to the day upon which the two negroes were to have been hanged, reprieve until July 17 was granted each by Gov. W. W. Brandon. In his order of reprieve, the governor pointed out that Peyton Johnson, a codefendant with the two Jacksons, had received a new trial while the high court had affirmed the cases of the two Jacksons. He cited further that before expiration of the reprieves granted, Peyton Johnson would have received a new trial.

It is contended, he stated, that further evidence has been found since the first trial of Johnson, which evidence should be produced at the new trial. He stated that the second trial of Johnson would enable him to better and more certainly pass on the merits of questions presented to him relative to commutation or further stay of execution of sentence in the cases of the two Jacksons.

MURDER OF GIRL IS RELATED BY NEGRO

J. C. Williams Breaks Under Strain and Confesses Slaying of Rose Brown

TROY, ALA., June 12.—Special to The Advertiser.—J. C. Williams, convicted for murder in the first degree and sentenced to hang for his crime July 3, with the extreme penalty of death glaring him in the face, broke under pressure of anguish and bared the complete story of the murder of Rose Brown before Deputy Sheriff Hood a few days ago, according to officials.

In confessing the slaughter, Williams stated that he knew he must die for his act and that he had lied concerning his guilt. He said that he did not want to die with a lie in his mouth.

According to the story Williams told, he went to the home of Rose Brown on the day of the murder finding her alone. From her he tried to borrow a dollar, which she refused. Judging from her speech, he said, he believed that she had the money but would not lend it. Maddened into a rage of anger, he lifted the woman from the floor and threw her into the yard.

Finally, she told him where she kept the money, he said, and after that he picked up an axe lying nearby and crushed her skull twice. He then dragged the body to the small smokehouse where he concealed it. Going back into the house he found the money and left.

In his story, Williams did not bring in Underwood, whom he had steadfastly declared was implicated in the crime. This marks the third confession of the negro, having admitted the former crimes which were charged to him.

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO HANG FOR MURDER

Death Sentence Announced by Judge Parks at Troy

TROY, ALA., June 2.—Special to The Advertiser.—J. C. Williams, negro murderer fiend who caused a reign of terror in March by killing three women, one in lower Montgomery county, and two in upper Pike, was today sentenced to hang July 3. The case came to trial Monday and the court room was packed all day with spectators, mostly negroes. The jury returned a verdict of first degree murder at 1 o'clock this morning and Judge Parks rendered his verdict to hang, at 8:30 o'clock.

FLORENCE, ALA., NEWS
JANUARY 6, 1925

ALABAMA'S RECORD IN KILLINGS ONE OF THE WORST YET

The Selma Times-Journal

Alabama may well feel a sense of pride and satisfaction in being left off the lynching record of the Southern States in 1924, not a single crime of mob violence being chargeable to the state according to the Tuskegee Institute report just released, but this gratifying showing is considerably marred by an unconscionable murder record, one of the worst listed in the annals of crime being credited to the state. There are no figures available showing just how many people were cut down by criminal acts during the year, but Birmingham alone has already made confession to having piled up more murders and unlawful killings during the year than the whole of Great Britain. Britain harbors more than forty million souls. The bad eminence achieved and excursion in criminality made by the Magic City must be a source of deep chagrin to its good citizens and friends of law and order, but it would be an assumption altogether wide of the mark to credit Birmingham with all of the killings or even a monopoly of violations of this one of God's commandments in the state.

The growing disregard of the law and loose respect for human life is not limited to any particular locality in the state or even the nation. The gravity of the homicidal mania and the necessity for its abatement is recognized pretty much all over the country. The daily newspapers teem with stories of foul deeds and crimes of every imagineable description. What to do to curb the human propensity to kill and to flout the restraints which the state has erected to safeguard society nobody seems to know, or just how to explain the general letting down of the human morale so universally noted does not come at the first bidding. But whatever the answer to this fundamental problem, everyone who has ears to hear and eyes to see knows that the honor of the state and its good name and its status as a civilized commonwealth depend upon its ability to command respect for the law and to administer justice, swift and impartial. Defiance of the law, if it goes on unchecked, will destroy the state and the republic itself.

Crime—1925

Alabama.

JAN[illegible]

ALABAMA'S RECORD IN KILLINGS ONE OF THE WORST YET

Alabama may well feel a sense of pride and satisfaction in being left off the lynching record of the Southern States in 1924, not a single crime of mob violence being chargeable to the state according to the Tuskegee Institute report just released, but this gratifying showing is considerably marred by an unconscionable murder record, one of the worst listed in the annals of crime being credited to the state. There are no figures available showing just how many people were cut down by criminal acts during the year, but Birmingham alone has already made confession to having piled up more murders and unlawful killings during the year than the whole of Great Britain. Britain harbors more than forty million souls. The bad eminence achieved and excursion in criminality made by the Magic City must be a source of deep chagrin to its good citizens and friends of law and order, but it would be an assumption altogether wide of the mark to credit Birmingham with all of the killings or even a monopoly of violations of this one of God's commandments in the state.

The growing disregard of the law and loose respect for human life is not limited to any particular locality in the state or even the nation. The gravity of the homicidal mania and the necessity for its abatement is recognized pretty much all over the country. The daily newspapers teem with stories of foul deeds and crimes of every imagineable description. What to do to curb the human propensity to kill and to flout the restraints which the state has erected to safeguard society nobody seems to know, or just how to explain the general letting down of the human morale so universally noted does not come at the first bidding. But what ever the answer to this fundamental problem, everyone who has ears to hear and eyes to see knows that the honor of the state and its good name and its status as a civilized common wealth depend upon its ability to command respect for the law and to administer justice, swift and impartial. Defiance of the law, if it goes on unchecked, will destroy the state and the republic itself.—Selma Times-Journal.

CONVICT LABOR AT BELLE ELLEN TO END MONDAY

Use Of Prisoners In Coal Mine For 25 Years To Cease

(State Capital Bureau)

MONTOGMERY, Ala., August 29.—At 6 o'clock Monday evening, August 31, state convicts in the mine at Belle Ellen will finish the last day's work to be performed by convict labor at the mine where prisoners have been digging coal for approximately 25 years, and at 8 o'clock Thursday morning the 168 convicts at Belle Ellen will be moved o nspecial train, and distributed among other prisons. The contract entered into between the state board of administration and the Bessemer Coal, Iron and Land company at Belle Ellen on February 1, 1924, terminates August 31, and it was announced today by the board that the state will withdraw from operation of the mine.

This action is pointed to by officials as another step in the policy announced by Gov. W. W. Brandon near the beginning of his administration, of terminating the convict lease system and of withdrawing such number of convicts as becomes practicable from the mines to other prisons. Under the contracts entered into with coal companies, the state instead of leasing convicts, has for some time been leasing the mines at the four mineral districts prisons, Belle Ellen, Flat Top, Palmer and Alldrich. At all of these mines, the entire properties are leased by the state and prisoners are under full control of the state, both when at work and at rest, it was pointed out.

The contract put into effect at Belle Ellen differed from those at the other three prisons. At Alldrich, Flat Top and Palmer, the state delivers the coal on cars at a price per ton basis. At Belle Ellen, however, the state took over the entire operation of the mine, including the selling of coal.

In announcing the withdrawal from Belle Ellen, Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the board of administration, pointed out that this action means that there will be one mine less operated with labor of state convicts than since state convicts were taken into the mineral district years ago. He also pointed out that the termination of the Belle Ellen operation will relieve the state from having coal on hand to sell in competition with private operators.

"We are highly pleased with the operations in the mines on the price per-ton basis," Mr. Nolen stated. "The morale of men in the mines is excellent, and according to present indications financial returns from the mines operated on the price per ton basis will be satisfactory." Mr. Nolen stated that it is his understanding that the Bessemer Coal, Iron and Land company will operate Belle Ellen mine with free labor after withdrawal of the convicts.

When asked as to the disposition to be made of the 168 prisoners at Belle Ellen, Mr. Nolen stated that highly experienced miners will go to other mining prisons, while others will come to Kilby and other prisons in the southern part of the state. The transfer of men from Belle Ellen to other mines will relieve men now in other mines for transfer elsewhere and Mr. Nolen stated that the readjustment resulting from cessation of operations at Belle Ellen will send 125 convicts from the mines to prisons in the southern district of the state.

MURDER IS CHARGED TO SIX IN CRENSHAW

Grand Jury Returns Partial Report, and Cases For Killing Made Public Today

LUVERNE, ALA., Nov. 12.—Special to The Advertiser.—In a partial report of the grand jury here today, headed by F. M. Douglass, forman, 20 indictments were returned into court, six of them being for murder in the first degree.

Those indicted for murder and manslaughter were: Will and Jadie Sikes, for the alleged killing of Mike Bush; Maxie Miller, charged with the killing of Tom Lowery, negro; Marshal and Furman Merritt, alleged to have killed their father; Kennie Smith, charged with killing a man named Ryals; Zollie Bryant, negro, said to have killed Houston Jones, negro.

According to the sheriff of Crenshaw county these capital cases will come before the court for trial week after next. There is much interest in the county over the outcome of these cases and the court will be thronged with many visitors during the trials.

Another capital case that will be tried in this court is that of Dock Jones, a former sheriff of the county, charged with murder in connection with the killing of a road foreman by the name of Briley. This case has been in the courts for some months.

Crime-1925.

Arkansas.

TWO NEGROES HELD.

Motorman Shot When He Resists Holdup.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Aug. 18.—(AP)—Two negroes have been arrested and are being held in connection with the attempted holdup and shooting of F. McBryde, car conductor, at Park Avenue and Main Street, here last night.

McBryde was shot by two unidentified negroes, when they attempted to rob him at about 9:30 o'clock last night. In the fight that followed the demand that he stick his hands up, McBryde fell from the car to the ground and was shot by one of the negroes. The bullet entered just under his collar bone and ranged through his body and came out under his right [illegible].

He rested comfortably last night and unless complications set in, he has a good chance for recovery.

According to a statement by McBryde, the two negroes entered the car when it stopped at the intersection of Park Avenue and Main Street and one of them tendered a quarter as fare. As he was getting the change the other man stuck a pistol in his side and said "give it to me." In the struggle that followed McBryde and the men fell from the car. Immediately after the shot was fired, the negroes ran.

INDICT NEGRO SLAYERS.

Two Go to Trial On Charge of Killing Wealthy Lumberman.

EL DORADO, Ark., Dec. 29.—After an investigation lasting less than an hour the Union County grand jury returned an indictment of murder in the first [illegible] morning against Lee Walker and his cousin, Roy Edmonds, alias James Walker, negroes, charged with the murder and robbery of Ira M. Hudson, wealthy lumberman of El Dorado. The negroes will go to trial as soon as a jury has been selected. The regular panel will be exhausted before extra veniremen are called, Sheriff Nelson said.

The negroes were arrested 24 hours after the mill man had been shot and robbed of his payroll on the afternoon of Dec. 12, in a lonely piece of woods seven miles east of here. A bottle of disinfestant, found on the ground at the scene of the killing and later [illegible] clothes of the pair, led to their arrest. They were taken to the "walls" at Little Rock a few hours after arrested by the sheriff and two deputies, where they are said to have made a full confession.

Hudson was found five hours after the murder, in a dense forest of old field pine, lying in a pool of his own blood, his head pierced with a .32 caliber bullet. He had been forced to turn his car from the road and drive into the woods a distance of some 200 yards. When his car became stalled he was made to walk another 200 yards to the spot where he was found dead. The payroll, which he was taking to the Cooper & Hudson sawmill, amounted to about $600. Hudson was a well known lumberman in North Louisiana and South Arkansas. He was part owner in two mills at Homer, La., in addition to the one here. His estate was rated at $100,000.

NEGRO SLAYER GOES ON TRIAL JANUARY 11

Date for Olmstead Hearing Also Set.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 23.—Wash Martin, negro self-confessed murderer of Mrs. Lena Blevins in the Fourche Bottoms two weeks ago, will be placed on trial before Circuit Judge Wade Monday, Jan. 11, court officials announced today.

Dr. M. E. Stanley of Olmstead indicted on a charge of second degree murder for the fatal shooting of Roy Arrington, a white youth, at a dance at Olmstead three weeks ago, will be arraigned for trial Thursday, Jan. 14.

Robert L. Rogers, attorney for Dr. Stanley, announced the defendant will plead self-defense, it being claimed by Dr. Stanley that he was being attacked with a knife in the hands of the boy when he fired, striking him in the stomach.

TWO NEGROES DRAW EXTREME PENALTY

Pair Convicted of Slaying El Dorado Lumberman.

EL DORADO, Ark., Dec. 30.—(AP)—The death penalty was meted out here this morning to Lee Walker and Roy Edmonds, negroes, tried before Judge L. S. Britt in Union Circuit Court for first degree murder. The jury was out only 15 minutes.

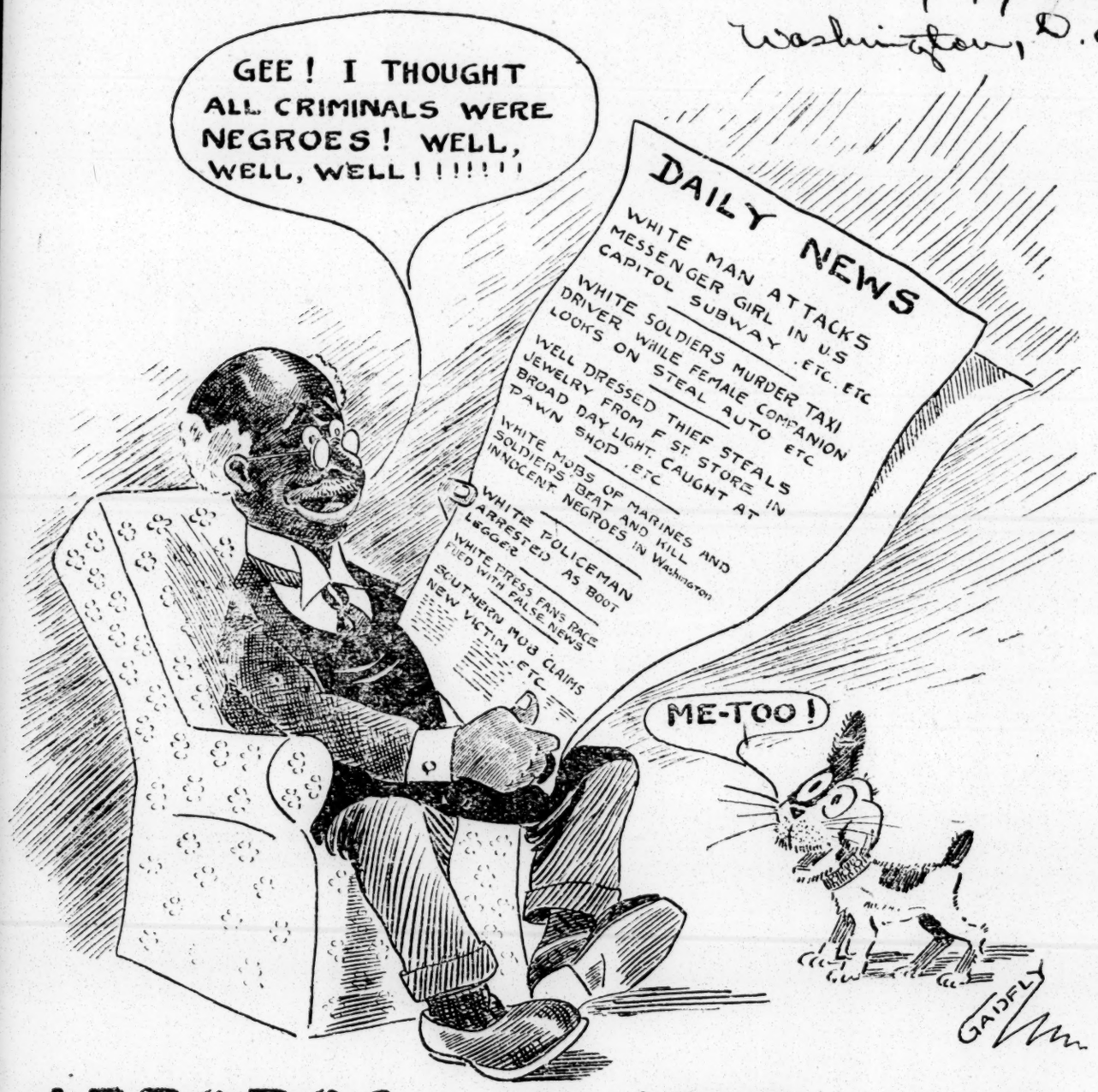
When the case was given over to the jury Judge Britt had the defendants removed from the court room to prevent any disturbance in case anything but a "death in the electric chair" verdict was returned. Sentence was not pronounced by the court.

Walker and Edmond were indicted here Monday at the opening of the December term of court in less than an hour after the grand jury had received instructions from [illegible]. They were charged with the "hi-jacking" and killing of Ira M. Hudson, a wealthy El Dorado lumberman, in a lonely wods on the Nick Springs Road, a little more than two weeks ago.

The penalty did not fix the sentence, but a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree automatically carries the death penalty.

Crime – 1925. D.C.

Washington Post
1-17-25
Washington, D.C.


GEE! I THOUGHT ALL CRIMINALS WERE NEGROES! WELL, WELL, WELL!!!!!!
DAILY NEWS
WHITE MAN ATTACKS MESSENGER GIRL IN U.S CAPITOL SUBWAY .ETC. ETC
WHITE SOLDIERS MURDER TAXI DRIVER WHILE FEMALE COMPANION LOOKS ON STEAL AUTO ETC
WELL DRESSED THIEF STEALS JEWELRY FROM F ST. STORE IN BROAD DAY LIGHT. CAUGHT AT PAWN SHOP .ETC
WHITE MOBS OF MARINES AND SOLDIERS BEAT AND KILL INNOCENT NEGROES IN Washington
WHITE POLICEMAN ARRESTED AS BOOT LEGGER
WHITE PRESS FANS RACE FUED WITH FALSE NEWS
SOUTHERN MOB CLAIMS NEW VICTIM .ETC
ME-TOO!
GADFLY

·APROPOS·OF·THE·CRIME·WAVE·

AGE OF LAWLESSNESS.

It was a bold and courageous declaration that Justice Harlan F. Stone made in an address at a lawyers' banquet in Washington. He is a member of the United States supreme court, and was until recently an attorney general of the United States. When he declared that Americans are "the least law-abiding people in the civilized world," it was a statement of facts issued by the highest authority charged with the knowledge of those facts. He said:

5-1-25.

"One of the great tasks that must be undertaken by the American people is to search out the reasons, the causes, which make us the least law-abiding people of the civilized world.

"What is it in our social life which takes away respect for law and keeps us from obedience to law. That attitude, I believe, is the greatest menace to our success as a people.

"I believe it is for our profession to take the lead in solving the problem by joining hands with psychologists, publicists and others competent to lend assistance, and I would like to see it take active and effective steps in the matter."

It is not as difficult to "search out the causes" as it is to adequately apply the remedy. The disrespect for any one law, popularly felt, tends toward a disrespect for all law. The congestion of the statutes with laws that are not enforced—or with laws that are sumptuary and strike at the inherent liberties of the people in a land of freedom, where every person is equal before the law—tends to break down that regard for the law that must be generally felt to keep a people from being lawless.

One of the superior court judges in Fulton county recently deplored from the bench the large and increasing number of young women and mere girls that are constantly being brought before him charged with larceny and other felonious offenses. He assigned the use of narcotics and whisky as the reason. And yet the use of or trafficking in eral and state laws. Very probably either is a violation of both fed-he is correct, and the breaking of one law leads to the breaking of another. And thus is the web knit—or the chain of crime linked. A young "sheik bandit" is alleged to have left a wife and babies in a southern city and followed a young woman, with whom he became infatuated, to Atlanta. Before the "lure of the siren" gripped his heart and seared his conscience he was a respected man of business and prospering. One crime led to another, and banditry was resorted to to provide the money necessary to keep the pace.

Even while the newspapers carry the story of the clutches of the law tightening around one band of modern-day brigands other bands are busy plying their illegal trades. The rising tide of crime continues on to its flood.

The remedy is not more laws. We have too many laws now. It is not severer penalties. It is not in fact better enforcement. The enforcement officers are doing the best they can in a storm of crime fury.

The remedies are, first, an aroused conscience against the habits and customs of the day—against the social license that breeds the first crime that leads to another and another; and second, a reconstruction of the American home life.

There must be more attention to character building through love, and less to the mechanical processes of merely tracing perfunctorily the fundamentals of civilization. There must be a revived spirituality around the hearthstone. There must be a respect and an obedience to the laws that are even most popularly disregarded in order to strengthen the obligation of obedience to all laws. The first step is the one to be watched.

IMPORTANT DECISION TO NEGRO CONVICT LABOR.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An important decision has been recently handed down by the Supreme Court of Arkansas with regard to certain illegal practices heretofore indulged in by the Board of Penitentiary Commissioners by hiring out convicts "to private individuals, firms, partnerships, and corporations for the purpose of clearing lands, constructing houses, levees, and dams" in violation of statutes and for private profit. Such employment, the Court found, was in contravention of law and public policy.

The court said: "It is urged that the convicts have not been leased within the meaning of the statute because their physical control is under the supervision and direction of guards and wardens appointed by the penitentiary commission. The physical custody of the convicts by the guards and wardens appointed by the penitentiary commission does not and cannot prevent the contract from being one of hiring out or leasing the convicts.

"Such a construction of the statute would in effect render it useless and ineffectual for the purpose for which it was enacted. The public policy of the State, as shown by the legislative will, was to prevent letting of the convicts to persons or corporations to be worked by them for private gain. To allow the contracts to stand would be contrary to the policy of the law as tending obviously to result in the violation of the purpose and spirit of our statute prescribing the rules and regulations which are to govern the penitentiary board in the control and working of the State convicts." Accordingly, the State Penitentiary Commission was restrained from hiring out and leasing the State convicts.

The above-quoted decision is of utmost significance to the hundreds of Negro convicts in prisons, whose state boards of control have been granting labor concessions to private interests which have exploited prison labor for selfish purposes and personal gain.

Crime—1925. Florida.

FLORIDA WHIPPING BOSS AGAIN HELD

Thomas W. Higginbotham and Four Others Arrested in Negro's Death

CROSS CITY, FLA., March 11.—An echo was heard here today of legislative investigations in 1923 and of the indictment against Thomas W. Higginbotham on charge of murder in connection with the death of Martin Tabert in February, 1923, in a lumber camp of this county, when Higginbotham and four others were placed in jail charged with the death of Lewis Barker, a negro.

A special term of Dixie county circuit court has been called to convene tomorrow when a special venire of grand jurymen will be summoned to report Friday morning to begin an investigation of the new charge against Higginbotham and John H. Windorn, E. G. Priest, W. G. McRane and Charley Hart, others arrested with him. The authorities believe, it is stated, that these men know something about the disappearance of Barker who had been missing since October 19, 1924 until his body was found at Shamrock, in this county, a short distance from the Putnam Lumber company's plant.

Higginbotham was convicted in Columbia county circuit court on July 8, 1923, of second degree murder and sentenced to twenty years in state prison in connection with Tabert's death, but appealed the case to the supreme court and subsequently was granted a new trial on the ground that there should have been no change of venue granted in the case until a proper effort had been made to obtain a jury in Dixie county. The change was granted on contention of the state that it would be impossible to obtain a fair and impartial jury so near the scene of the alleged crime.

In the meantime he has been out on a $20,000 bond awaiting the fixing of date for the second trial.

Traumatic pneumonia resulted from severe whipping and brought about the death of Tabert four days afterward, it was charged against Higginbotham by the state. The defendant admitted whipping the young convict, who had been arrested at Tallahassee for stealing a ride on a freight train, but it was contended that the whippings had been within limits of the law. Lobar pneumonia caused the death, the defense contended.

Testimony adduced by the state during the trial described the methods used by Higginbotham who was known as the "whipping boss" in the camp. Witnesses declared he administered scores of lashes in whipping Tabert, a native of North Dakota. Information concerning the youth's death resulted in a request upon the legislature of that state that the state of Florida be called upon to make an investigation of the case.

Following its receipt by the Florida legislature, which convened with the development of news of the case an investigation was begun, the ramifications of which went into every phase of this state's convict lease system, finally resulting not only in abolition of the lease system but also of the lash as a means of disciplining prisoners.

It has been but a few weeks since Gov. Martin received a resolution from the North Dakota legislature extending the "hand of fellowship across the continent to the people of Florida."

The resolution contained congratulations over the manner in which the entire matter had been handled.

Florida Flogger Under Indictment In Torture Death

Jacksonville, Fla., March 11.—Thomas W. Higginbotham, now under sentence of 20 years for the fatal whipping of Martin Tabert, North Dakota youth two years ago and who was granted a new trial by the state supreme court, is under arrest in Cross City in connection with the murder of Lewis Barker, a negro, on October 19, 1924, according to information received here.

The negro is said to have been taken into the woods, bound to a tree and his body burned.

Four other men reported held in connection with the care are: W. E. McRane, E. E. Priest, Charles Hart and J. H. Winburn, all of whom are said to be in custody at Cross City, Dixie county seat.

Higginbotham appealed from the verdict in the Tabert case on the grounds that it was illegally transferred from one county to another. His new trial was to have come up May 19 and he was out on $25,000 bond at the time of his arrest. It is reported that the grand jury will be convened in Cross City tomorrow in special session to investigate the Barker slaying.

WHIPPING BOSS AND TWO PLEAD NOT GUILTY

Arraignment of Higginbotham and Others on Murder Charge Starts Trial

BY H. R. REYNOLDS
Staff Correspondent of the I. N. S.

CROSS CITY, Fla., March 23.—Three of the six men charged with the murder of Lewis Barker, a negro, near Shamrock, on October 19, 1924, were arraigned Monday before Judge Mallory F. Horne in circuit court here and entered pleas of not guilty.

They were E. G. Priest, an engineer; G. W. McRane, and Thomas W. Higginbotham.

Reading of the grand jury indictments to the accused by State Attorney J. R. Kelly occupied more than an hour.

Three other men were indicted at the same time, but were not arraigned Monday. They are Deputy Sheriff John H. Winburn, Charles Hart, a negro, and D. A. Parker, a logging superintendent. Winburn and Hart are in jail in an adjoining county, but Parker has never been apprehended and is now at large.

Special interest attaches to the present case because of the indictment of Higginbotham, who was convicted of second degree murder in the death of Martin Tabert, a North Dakota boy, who was a leased convict.

The convict leasing system was abolished in this state, as a result of the Higginbotham case. The latter was employed by a lumber company here up until the time of his arrest in the Parker slaying. His conviction in the Tabert case was set aside by the State Supreme Court because of the transfer of the trial to another county, but he is to be tried again in May.

All three of the men arraigned Monday were taken back to jail after the preliminaries were disposed of. A venire of 100 was ordered for 10 o'clock Tuesday, from which a jury would be selected to try McRane, Attorney Kelly having elected to put him on trial first. All of those indicted will be tried separately.

FLORIDA WHIPPING PROBE IS ORDERED

Special Grand Jury to Investigate Death of Negro Convict

CROSS CITY, FLA., March 12.—Whether or not Thomas W. Higginbotham, George McRane, E. G. Priest and J. H. Windorf, now held in jail here, had anything to do with the disappearance of Lewis Barker, negro, portions of whose skeleton have been found near the plants of a lumber company for which Higginbotham was "whipping boss," will be determined by a special grand jury being summoned tonight by Sheriff Chavous to report tomorrow morning.

The sheriff, acting under orders issued by Judge Mallory F. Horne, of circuit court, was seeking the men for the special venire tonight.

The portions of the body found—a few bones, some pennies and the shoes—have not been positively identified as that of Barker, Charley Hart another negro was indicted by the regular grand jury two weeks ago in connection with the case and is alleged to have revealed some of the details to authorities.

Following the indictment of Hart, Judge Horn ordered the arrest of Higginbotham and the other three as suspects in the case.

The charred remains of the negro, supposed to have been Barker, who had been missing since October, were found recently in a pile of ashes at Shamrock, near the plant of the Putnam Lumber company. It was this company which maintained the camp of convicts, leased from the state, of which Higginbotham was the alleged whipping boss.

The system of convict leasing has been abolished by the state since the investigation two years ago of the case of Martin Tabert, North Dakota man, who died after a whipping alleged to have been administered at the camp by Higginbotham.

Higginbotham, at the time of his arrest two days ago under suspicion of complicity in the disappearance of Barker was under $20,000 bond for appearance for a second trial for the alleged murder of Tabert. At a first trial, he was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to twenty years in the state penitentiary.

Flogging Is Charged By Alleged Peons

PENSACOLA, Fla., May 20.—George Diamond, the fourth alleged negro peon to take the witness stand in the trial of four Calhoun County men on indictments charging violation of the Florida peonage laws, Wednesday corroborated the testimony of his three comrades and told of a lashing administered to him at the instance of the defendants.

The four defendants are Jerry Davis, Charles Rand, turpentine operators, and Will Proctor and Frank Daniel, alleged accomplices.

All four of the alleged negro peons testified that they were unmercifully flogged by Dewitt Stoner, another negro, when they attempted to escape from the Calhoun turpentine camp, where they said conditions bordering on slavery existed.

Fla. Legislature Bans Lash in Prison Camp

PENSACOLA, Fla., June 19.—(P N. S.)—The lash has been abolished forever in Florida convict camps, it is believed by State Senator John M. Coe, who has just returned from the legislature session at Tallahassee, where an effort to legalize the lash died quickly in the House.

"No bill to permit the use of the instrument of torture was introduced in the Senate: if one had been, it would have been promptly killed, he said.

Abolition of the lash two years ago followed the fatal flogging of Martin Tabert in aconvict camp.

"The Tabert exposure," Representative Frank Carroll said, "coupled with the recent developments in Florida turpentine camps, as shown in peonage cases tried here in Pensacola, shows that the name of Florida must be protected; when such acts are proved they should be punished severly."

PROBE TO BEGIN IN NEGRO MURDER

Former Florida Whipping Boss Among Five Defendants Named in Case

CROSS CITY, FLA., March 22.—The special term of Dixie county circuit court will reconvene tomorrow to begin the trials of five white men and one negro on charges of first degree murder in connection with the death on October 19, 1924 of Lewis Barker, negro clothing salesman.

Indictments were returned by a special grand jury on March 14, after which Judge Mallory F. Horne recessed the court for a week.

Those named in the indictments are: Thomas Higginbotham, former lumber camp "whipping boss"; D. A. Parker, E. G. Priest, W. G. McRane and John H. Winburn, white men, and Charlie Hart, a negro. The six are charged with beating Barker and later shooting him to death. The remains of a body believed to have been that of the negro, a few bones and a shoe, were found in a pile of ashes near here last December.

One hundred and fifty veniremen will be summoned by Sheriff Sam Chavous under instructions from Judge Horne. State's Attorney J. R. Kelly has announced he will seek to have each of the defendants tried individually.

The six defendants are being held in jail.

FLORIDA'S WHIPPING BOSS.

An Associated Press dispatch from Cross City, Fla., brought the news that Florida endorses flogging as a means of persuading labor out of the inmates of a convict camp, even when death results from that form of persuasion. We reproduce the dispatch announcing that decision, reached by a jury in the State that invites Northerners to settle within its borders and assist the greatest land boom inaugurated in the South. It reads:

> Thomas Walter Higginbottom, former Dixie County lumber camp "whipping boss," to-day was found not guilty by a Circuit Court jury on a second degree murder charge in connection with the slaying of Martin Tabert, North Dakota youth.
>
> A year ago Higginbottom was found guilty as charged but a new trial was granted by a Supreme Court decision.

It will be remembered that this whipping boss was indicted in 1893 for causing the death of a white youth from North Dakota, who had been sent to the lumber camp in Dixie county for stealing a ride on a freight train. When the people of North Dakota found out that one of their citizens had been flogged to death in Florida, there was great indignation and the Florida authorities were quick to disclaim responsibility. Higginbottom, the whipping boss, was convicted of murder and the Florida legislature made a gesture of abolishing the use of the lash as a means of disciplining state and county prisoners.

But no punishment was ever inflicted on the convicted whipping boss and a year later he was accused of flogging another convict to death, a Negro this time. And on a second trial of the Tabert charge, we hear that he is acquitted. This goes to show that popular sentiment in Florida is in favor of whipping convicts, even if death results from the unrestrained brutality of such whipping bosses as Higginbottom. The action of the legislature turns out to be an empty gesture, intended to throw dust into the eyes of the people of South Dakota and such other Northerners as may be beguiled into buying Florida real estate.

There may be an appropriate place in the scheme of creation for such savage wielders of the lash as this man Higginbottom, who is undoubtedly usutained in his murderous methods by the local sentiment of a Florida jury. The only function that we can imagine him filling with any degree of fitness would be as disciplinarian to the atrocious criminals who have made New York their stamping ground of late years and who thrive under the present penal system. At that, a restraining power would be required to prevent his infliction of the death penalty.

Let New York State try to secure Higginbottom as warden of Sing Sing if Florida could be induced to part with such a masterful wielder of the lash. The result might be helpful both to the security of life and property in the metropolis and for the future of the Florida land boom.

Want Lash Returned In Florida Prisons

Tallahassee, Fla., Nov. 18.—The restoration of the lash as a mode of punishment in Florida prison camps has been requested by state prison officials. The request is the outgrowth of the efforts of prison officials to make Negro prisoners work harder in the road building projects fostered by the Florida land boom. In effort to attract more tourists and land investors the state of Florida is engaging in a frenzied road-building program and colored labor is being conscripted to complete it.

For the slightest offense Negroes are sentenced to several months in the prisoncamps and are immediately placed at work on the state roads. In resentment to this injustice many of the men so conscripted refuse to do the work, knowing that they are protected from corporal punishment by the state laws. With the return of the lash as a form of coercion and punishment prison guards feel that they will be able to cope with the situation.

Florida Sheriff To Be Tried For Murder

By The Associated Negro Press

West Palm Beach, Fla., Dec. 24—Sheriff Henry Chase who was recently indicted for second degree murder in connection with the death of two prsioners here in an attempted jail delivery will be tried in the circuit court here December, according to a statement from the District Attorney. The Sheriff and his friends are expecting him to be freed of the charge.

The indictment of the sheriff followed the shooting and instant death of a Negro prisoner and the subsequent death of a white prisoner, when the sheriff and his deputies fired into the jail yard at a group of prisoners who are alleged to have been making an attempt to escape jail. The sheriff had been informed that a jail break would be made on the morning of September 20. With a numeber of deputies concealed in the court house windows above the jail, the sheriff waited in the yard.

When breakfast was being served he opend fire. One of the bullets struck a Negro prisoner waiter and a white prisoner who was walking in the yard.

Crime—1925 General.

"A Study In News Values"

From Virginian-Pilot.

The NORFOLK JOURNAL AND GUIDE'S editorial page was in a recent national competition voted the best among American Negro newspapers. So far as our limited observation of Negro papers goes this encomium is deserved. The Norfolk paper is edited with intelligence, discrimination and fine restraint. These are qualities that entitle it to a hearing when it discusses problems arising from this country's racial duality. Why, it asks, that the same white newspaper that dismissed with a few lines and a small caption the death of Henry Lincoln Johnson, one of the most eminent political leaders of the colored race, gave liberal space and a bold black head to the news of the arrest of a "colored alleged burglar." Here, it concludes, is "another phase of Southern psychology which Negroes do not comprehend."

The problem here presented is an old one and we do not pretend to have the complete answer to it, nor would we risk predicting its future. The depelopment will unquestionably be in the direction of less exploitation of Negro crime and greater publicity for Negro achievement. It is not entirely a question of race. There is a factor at work in the present disparity that has not directly to do with the question of racial identity. It is the circumstance that in the South colored readers form a very small proportion of a newspaper's total circulation. Since the general rule holds that a story is worth for the newspapers what it is worth for its readers, it is to be expected that the obituaries of Negro politicians, eminent and worthy though they may have been, will not be gone into at length for a body of readers for whom he holds only casual interest. Crime, of course, has a direct human appeal, regardless of color, nativity or origin. Witness the heavy exploitation in America of the Paris "bluebeard" and London's bamboozled Indian prince. One way to help redress the balance between unpleasant Negro publicity and the other kinds of Negro publicity, is for Negroes to become newspaper readers. Let the Negroes of a community begin to figure in force as a body of advertisement and news readers, and economic law will see to it that the newspapers will not unduly slight the legitimate news in which they are interested.

Norfolk Journal and Guide 10-10-25 Norfolk Va.

Discussing the point raised by this paper that newspapers of the opposite race almost invariably suppress Negro crime and suppress Negro achievements the *Virginian-Pilot* says: "There is a factor at work in the present disparity that has not directly to do with the question of racial identity. It is the circumstance that in the South colored readers form a very small proportion of a newspaper's circulation." It is pointed out that crime news holds an interest for everyone without regard to race, which gives Negro crimes preference over Negro achievement for white readers.

As to the relative proportion of Negro readers it may be said that Negroes are growing rapidly in race consciousness and the very fact that most of what they read in many of the papers is uncomplimentary to them acts as an inhibition to their reading of that class of papers. It also accounts, perhaps, for the rapid growth of circulation among Negro papers during the past few years. It is not generally known that one Negro paper, published in Chicago, has a circulation exceeding 150,000 copies each issue. At the present rate of growth there will be several in that class within the next few years.

As to the news value of crimes of the general run attributed to Negroes it is true in many instances that when the crime is dissociated from race it loses its importance. Such was true of the celebrated Kane murder that occurred in Brooklyn last Summer and the more recent atrocious Daly case in New Jersey, both of which were highly sensational front page features in the larger metropolitan papers until it was proved beyond a doubt that the murderers were not Negroes. Ordinarily when the perpetrator of a crime is not a Negro it has little sustained news value, unless it has a sex appeal, as was true of the Leopold and Leob case in Chicago and London's bamboozled Indian Prince, referred to by the *Virginian-Pilot*. Omit the word Negro and the story loses its magic.

In the final analysis the whole question turns upon the degree to which the Negro is an economic asset—to newspapers as readers and to advertisers as buyers. There are twelve million Negroes in the United States. Illiteracy among them is now the exception rather than the rule, especially in the urban centers. They eat, wear clothes, use fuel to keep themselves warm and for other necessary purposes. Many of them have culture and aesthetic tastes and some of them have wealth and require many of the so-called luxuries as well as the necessities of life. It is the opinion of most thoughtful Negroes that their potential buying power is either overlooked or discounted, for various reasons; most of which have no basis in ordinary justice or in economic laws.

In the observations of the *Virginian-Pilot*, there is one very hopeful note, that in any careful examination of the problem "the development will unquestionably be in the direction of less exploitation of Negro crime and greater publicity to Negro achievement." Already a tendency in that direction has been noted, not only in our Norfolk papers, but in many of the larger papers throughout the South.

LANCASTER, S. C.
OCT 30 1925

TELLS THE NEGRO TO STAY AT HOME

Many Get In Trouble In States of the North And Don't Understand Conditions

Says the Southern Planter Magazine:

Of 1,211 prisoners received at the Ohio State Penitentiary during the year ended June 30, 1925, 342 were southern negroes. Kentucky led with 83; Tennessee followed with 43 and Alabama and Georgia each gave 41.

In ordinary circumstances and at home these negroes would not have been criminals; but as Prison Director Harper says in discussing the report of the warden: "These negroes come north with the expectation of finding plenty of easy work at large pay; and when they are unable to secure this are easily let into commiting some crime."

Furthermore, the same official remarks: "Ohio police officials are more diligent than those of the South and their alertness probably leads to arrests which the same man might escape in his southern home."

The Ohio prison director is certainly right when he attributes the large number of offenders sent to him for incarceration as due to the unintelligent migration of untrained and more or less ignorant negroes from the places where they were known to places that regarded them with suspicion; but it to be questioned whether he is equally right in his conclusion regarding the relative efficiency of the police in the South and in Ohio.

We doubt the superior efficency of the Ohio guardians of the law. In the South a greater charity would have been extended to the offenders. It is highly probable that many of the men sent to the Ohio penitentiary would, if their offences had been committed in the South have received jail sentences instead; and it is well within reason to believe that some of them would have even escaped jail.

Larger wages and greater freedom are excellent baits to lure men but the real friends of the Southern negroes, whether men of their own race or white men, should think twice before they advocate a movement toward the north. The highly trained, efficient, intelligent negro can take care of himself and his interests no matter where he goes; but it is to be doubted if even the best equipped can find much beyond the Potomac except the mythical social equality that they cannot find at home; and so far as the ignorant are concerned it is little short of crime to induce them to leave an environment which insures a certain degree of sympathetic understandings and go to a section that has no pity for their transgressions but holds them to the same rigid responsibility that it demands of the most cultivated.

PRISON POPULATION SHRINKS DESPITE GROWTH OF CRIME

BROOKLYN N. Y. EAGLE
DECEMBER 27, 1925

Census for 1923 Shows 109,-619 Behind Bars Against 111,498 in 1910.

Washington, Dec. 26 (AP)—The American people are showing increased ability in the way of keeping out of prisons, it was indicated today in Census Bureau figures on the prison population of the nation.

Covering estimates as of Jan. 1, 1923, the latest date on which the facts were obtainable, the bureau placed the number in prisons at 109,619 as against 111,498 on Jan. 1, 1910.

This would indicate an imprisonment rate of 99.7 per 100,000 of population for 1923, whereas, in 1910 the rate was 121.2 per 100,000. The bureau warned, however, that the figures should not be considered as exact in revealing the "relative prevalence of crime in general, "nor of specific offenses," because of the rise of the probation system, the leniency in treating juvenile delinquency and other changes had operated to alter the imprisonment results of court action.

Although omitting comment as to effects of prohibition, the report said that commitments to penal institutions for drunkenness numbered 91,-367 in 1923 and 170,787 in 1910. This was the biggest drop shown in the comparisons. The total number of commitments to penal institutions in 1923 was estimated at 357,493, while in 1910 the figures were 479,-787. Nearly all types of serious crime showed fewer convictions in the latter year. though conventions for violating the liquor laws which numbered but 7,713 in 1910, rose to 39,340 in 1923.

The male sex also was shown to have an overwhelming proportion of responsibility in crime. On Jan. 1, 95.2 percent of all prisoners in penal institutions were men and only 5,192, or 4.8 percent were women.

Persons between 25 and 34 years of age made up the largest group of the prison population, 34.2 percent being in this category.

Native white persons constituted 53.4 percent of the prison population, foreign born whites 13.8 percent and the negro population 31.3 percent.

Considering the number actually in prison on Jan. 1, 1923, New Hampshire's record appeared to be the lowest, with 54.6 persons confined to each 100,000 of population. Nevada, the mountain country, was at the other end of the list, having 353 persons to each 100,000 of population in prison, while the next closest was Arizona with 315.6.

Discrimination—1925. General.

J. A. Rogers, Writer, Abroad Tells Of Experiences With American Color Line Enroute

Turned Down As a Hire-Out By United States Shipping Board, Traveled Third Class, and Of Course, On Account Of Color Is Accommodated With Some Exclusiveness.

By J. A. ROGERS

With this article as a beginning I shall try to present Europe to you folks at home precisely as I see it. I shall tell of things as they are for I feel that you share with me the desire to inject the least amount of prejudice possible in things, that is, one wants the truth.

J. A. Rogers

In this first article I will tell of my trip across on the S. S. George Washington, one of the finest ships of the U. S. Lines. For many years I had been hoping to make the trip and it was with considerable emotion that I saw the ship swing out from the pier to the waving of hats and handkerchiefs of the densely packed crowd ashore and the blare of the ship's band, into the stream, then past the great skyscrapers and out into the ocean where the city finally sunk behind the horizon. After all, no matter what conditions are at home, it is difficult to tear up and leave one's friends for a distant land even though he is going on a pleasure trip.

The Coast Comes To View

After a pleasant voyage across I awoke the ninth morning out to see the low lying grey coast of England and soon after we cast anchor in Plymouth Sound. There is certainly a lot of water on this planet. It is over three thousand miles from New York to Plymouth and with the exception of a few hours after leaving and the few before landing, one sees nothing but water lying within a great bowl as it were, clean-cut at the edges. As I lay on deck day after day, I thought of Columbus and his frail ships crossing that mighty waste of waters seeking a land only dimly believed to exist. The more I thought the more I marvelled at his daring and the destiny that guided him thither to be the founder of the great republics of the New World.

Arriving at Plymouth the immigration officers came aboard and after asking a few questions stamped our passports and warned us that if we stayed in England over two months the law required us to register at the police station. Aliens coming to live here must register immediately. This is a war measure and is considered a nuisance; but at that it is better than most other countries where one must register right away and each time he moves, too.

"Color Line" Experiences

I had some interesting experiences along the "color line" on the ship. I soon discovered two things, namely, that I was the only Negro aboard and the only native-speaking English in the class I traveled. Aside from one German-American from St. Louis, all the others were from Germany and other parts of Europe. To give some idea of the diversity of nationality, one day on deck while seven of us were standing together, I took a poll and found that all seven had a different mother-tongue. And said, "I came over on an American liner. When I told my friends in New York City of my selection they all expressed surprise and wondered why I had not chosen a French liner as I would be likely to meet with some prejudice on an American ship. But as will be seen, there was some method in my madness.

Prior to buying a passage, I had tried to work my way over on an American ship, being a Negro writer and not over-burdened as others of my kind with cash. Through a friend of mine who works for the Shipping Board, I was to get a job but when the boss saw my face he showed great surprise. "Why," said he, "I thought you were a white man. We don't use colored men to European ports." And that was that. The reason for this action on the part of the U. S. Shipping Board I will leave for the reader to figure out for himself or herself. By the way, almost every other nationality except native Americans work on the ship I was on.

From the United States line I went to the British Line and there another surprise awaited me. When I told the man in charge of the ship employment agency that I wanted a job across paid-off in England he made such a rapid dive for the telephone to send me on a boat leaving the next morning that he almost took my breath away. When I hesitated, he urged me to seize the opportunity and I decided to go. Then it develoed that my nationality was against me as only British subjects could be paid off in England.

In this same office were many British W. Indians who were indignantly refusing a job to be paid off in England when that manager, hard pressed for waiters saw me, he grabbed me quick. I know that as one sworn to serve his country before leaving it the above is unpatriotic. Facts, nevertheless, are facts.

Passport Regulations

I later discovered that because of passport regulations it would have been altogether out of the question for me to have left except as a paying passenger. I thought the experience worth while.

It was precisely because of this experience that I decided on an American ship. I knew that on a French, German, Dutch, or even an English liner, I would be thrown in with anyone traveling as I did third class. I knew however, that Mr. James Crow would see to it that I enjoy some degree of exclusion on an American ship. I note that in booking me the clerk wrote "colored" above my name. Later when I saw some of my fellow passengers and realized that but for that gentleman I might have had them for sleeping companions I was very grateful to him for once. Some of those members of the superior race were wearing back the same clothes they had left in many years ago and fro mthe fragrance they diffused I should say also the same soil they had taken away on their skins. Many of the four hundred or so, particularly those from Germany, were cleanly. Many were naturalized though I noticed that few were actually touched by the Americanization process, except in one respect which it is needless for me to mention here.

No Attention To Color in Europe

Though so far as I have been able to see no attention is paid whatsoever to one's color in Europe, these Europeans returning home were many of them very color conscious. They made allusions to my color and trotted out the old stuff about Negroes and watermelons, chickens and crap-shooting. They were trying to be friendly, mark you, but I pretty soon squelched them by telling them to shut up as I was leaving just to get a holiday from these and similar things.

Another thing I found out also was that if I didn't want to be called "nigger" I should cease playing with the children. Three with whom I tried to be friendly called me that. One of these was a very shy little boy who sat opposite me at table. One morning he didn't show up at breakfast and seeing him later in the smoker with his father I said, patting him on the head: "I didn't see you at breakfast little man." He had never spoken in my presence before and I really wasn't expecting a reply. You may imagine my intense surprise, therefore, when he piped up in a shrill voice so loud that all in the crowded smoker could hear: "I know what you are. You're a nigger, aren't you?" When I didn't answer he kept on repeating the question until his five year old sister struck at him. He was only four and of Lithuanian parentage but he had learnt his lesson early.

Had Fine Trip

Being practically the only native-speaking person in that class—most of the native Americans traveled second or first class—my presence was the cause of much surmise. From one woman I learned that I was suspected of being a secret service agent, particularly as I had a room all to myself.

Apart from the above incidents I had a very fine trip. The service on the George Washington is excellent though many complained that they couldn't get a drink. No liquor is sold on American ships. With a cabin all to myself it was almost like traveling first class on certain lines.

The George Washington is one of the largest ships afloat and at night I felt as if I was in bed in New York City. Of course, the sea was calm most of the time. Moral: When traveling select a big boat it is less likely to rock. But at that quite a few were sea sick and didn't show up at meals. The beds were clean and soft and the rooms kept very clean. And speaking of this, I am reminded to say that the job of Pullman porter is a snap compared with that of a bedroom steward on one of these liners. He has a large number of beds to make besides attending to sick passengers. One idiot being deported who was in the compartment near me had the mentality of a nine months old child and had to be helped to do everything as one of that age would.

The waiters also had their hands full serving six meals a day, that is the three regulars with three lunches between.

Eating, of course, was the chief diversion of the passengers. The food served was enough for harvest hands, and some of them went after it just as if they had come in from the fields. I never knew before that some human stomachs could hide away so much food. The father of the boy that had called me "nigger" usually started in with four huge pork chops or steaks as the case may be.

The following, for instance, are the items on one of the dinner bills: chow chow, sour pickles, soup, baked haddock, roast beef, roast goose, roast chicken, cabbage, potatoes, bread, ice cream, cookies, cheese, nuts, raisins, fruit and coffee.

The chief steward of the third class, R. Canel, a cuban who had three ships torpedoed under him in the last war, seemed to have singled me out for especial care. He invited me to his cabin, offered me the use of his books, and told me to go to the kitchen for a bite any time I wanted.

In the next article I will tell something of the historic town of Plymouth, my stay in Cornwall, of some historic places I have visited in London, my impressions of the English people and of living conditions here particularly as they compare with that of colored folk at home.

For those wishing to write me, my address is, 6 Haymarket, care American Express, London.

CRIMINAL DISCRIMINATION

Justice in Illinois has again been perverted, via "cell shock" by the recent decision of Justice David, in behalf of Russell Scott, colored millionaire. Several Colored men, none of them confessed murderers, but convicted on circumstantial evidence received capital punishment.

None of these accused men were given any consideration by a justice, or any court of appellate jurisdiction in the state of Illinois.

Scott was convicted by a jury of his peers, the same as the Colored men. Why should such a flimsy pretext "cell shock" be allowed in the record when guilt was established and proven? No wonder crime waves are wracking the brains of officialdom who are strenuously trying to punish criminals having no regard for the laws of the jurisdictions in which they obtain immunities.

Criminality and judicial rascality have been running hand in hand, in many states, especially the south, regarding the punishment of criminals.

Discrimination of crimes and the punishment thereof must undergo official purification, in order that the indulgent public can regain confidence in the machinery of Justice.

The Committee of 1000, headed by former Judge Elbert H. Gary of the U. S. Steel Trust may be the panacea for curing the EVILS of judicial decay and MOBOLOGY.

SEGREGATION SHOULD BE ABOLISHED—NO DENYING ITS PREVALENCE

We hope the Republican party is wise enough to note the pregnant fact that Colored Republicans have changed somewhat. Their spirit is different.

During the Wilsonian rule in Washington Colored men working for wages fo rthe United States government were grossly insulted. This insult was so intended by Wilson to make the recipients feel their brand as Republicans also to show them an inferior regard as American citizens.

Since this country was founded and conceived by men who believed in workin gfor a living, stress was laid down that happiness so far as the state was able would surround the worker.

Today, under the very eyes of Pres. Coolidge, Colored men and women are being treated like dogs, herded together like wild beasts, and the entire race insulted by the treatment accorded to its members who are working to support their wives and children.

This condition was the same under an administration of Southerners under whom Colored men working for the government and whose son were shedding their blood at th efront were not accorded decent treatment of men.

The same conditions prevail under the administration of the famous Governor of Massachusetts, a graduate of Amherst College, one of the fairest institutions of learning in America, President Calvin Coolidge.

Mr. Coolidge is a gentleman and we say this because his antecendents show this family were not like Wilson's, the descendents of Rebels, but to the contrary have always fought for the red, the white and the blue.

We don't look for much from a Southerner of white skin. We expect ignorance and have not been disappointed. But from President Coolidge we expect the stand of a man from his party, we not only expect but demand that treatment.

Segregation is rife and rampant, in fact notorious. There is no use to try to deny its existence. It must cease at the head of this government. If it does not, a change must be made in the type of men running this government, or must America admit that this rotten treatmen of a loyal class of ciizens is the sum total average of fair America and that before the entire world. We must asknowledge our weakness as men.

We are of the opinion that this treatment of black people can be swiftly reversed with the full consent of the American body politic. This relic of a barbaric rule should be removed by the present rulers who are by every line of reasoning civilized.

When we ask that things be remedied, we are told that the matter would be looked into. Well Wilson gave us the same. Are we expected to be always the Damphool.

Blinking Colored politicians with the open palm are not good indicators for Republican leaders to follow. The rank and file are in earnest. We await with interest developments as to this horrid form of slavery called segregation in the government.

MISCHIEVOUS "JIM CROW"

By Roger Didier
Associated Negro Press

We believe that racial segregation in all its indirect and ominous ramifications, is the worst evil against which Negroes have to battle. We intend to keep on the watch for it and to fight it. But we are compelled to admit that the battle against it is filled with peculiar difficulties. "Jim Crow" is segregation unabashed. In an absolute sense, whenever Negroes attempt anything in which they are conspicuous because of their influence they are "Jim Crowed." Anything that they have because the white man does not want them is a part of his dedication to the spirit of "Jim Crow." The Negro's fraternal organizations are in the "Jim Crow" class, his churches, his newspapers, his barber shops, his baseball leagues, his dances, his welfare organizations, all, if you're going to be reasonable, travel the route of segregated endeavor. He goes to a "Jim Crow" church, but fights, and properly, a "Jim Crow" school. He accepts proscription from various lines of white interest and gleefully carries on his own "Jim Crow" efforts.

A little thought will convince the outside observer that we do not define segregation in its absolute sense, but in terms of what we must accept and what we think we won't have to accept if we protest strongly enough. The influences opposed to Tuskegee refer to the government hospital there as a "Jim Crow" affair, because Negroes run it. Well, it is, but most of us wanted it, and whether we did or no, it was going to be that way so far as patients are concerned. New York always sensitive to "Jim Crow," has been fighting the Harlem Hospital which is to be manned by Negro doctors on the ground that to give it a Negro personnel will be to segregate or "Jim Crow" it, which it will. They fight it because they think that if they are strong enough Negro and white doctors will have a little Allah's holiday working together in Bellevue, which is altogether wrong and impossible. The New York News has just risen to join the Chicago Defender in taking exception to the Lincoln Legion, an organization of colored ex-service men. The News calls attention to the recent honor conferred on Captain Bouttee, an American legion man, in being permitted to review the Fifteenth, New York. This is done to show its readers that Negroes can and should fight it out in the old legion, rather than form a "Jim Crow" legion of their own.

All right. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People labors particularly for civil rights, in a "Jim Crow" way. Why not, if you are going to avoid segregation, merge it with the American Civil Liberties Union?

The only cause the News or the Defender has for questioning the existence of the Lincoln Legion is their vain hope that Negroes will someday be able to function logically in the American Legion. They won't. The Lincoln Legion is fostered by men who have been high in the councils of the American legion, and they have organized the Lincoln, which admits whites to membership, because they know that hope of expression in the older body is futile. It is born of the desires of former Negro soldiers. It is a called for body, the News and the other segregationists, notwithstanding.

How amazed will certain persons be to hear that the Chicago Defender has spoken against the Lincoln legion. They will remember last October when, at the organization meeting of the ex-soldiers, Robert S. Abbott sat in and ate with them, espousing their cause and promising them unlimited publicity without cost. And now his paper inspires enemies to the legion. We'll bet he doesn't know anything about that editorial which he wrote.

"Jim Crow" operates mischievously in the field between what we know we'll have to put up with, such as churches, lodges, and the proscriptions backed by law and what we think we can successfully inveigh against, such as theatres, lunch rooms, hotels. We believe the American Legion is just as necessary as a "Jim Crow" organization to care for the needs of colored soldiers, as the "Jim

Crime - 1925. General.

ATLANTA SECOND IN MURDER LIST OF U. S.--BOYKIN

Memphis Alone Exceeds City's Crime Death Record, Says Solicitor in Lauding Pistol War.

SHAME ON GEORGIA, STATEMENT DECLARES

Scores of People Join Voices to Chorus Demanding Abolishment of Deadly Weapon.

With scores of letters coming in daily praising The Constitution for its determined stand against the menace of the concealed pistol, John A. Boykin, solicitor general of the Fulton judicial circuit Thursday unqualifiedly backed up the campaign against firearms by stating that Atlanta is the second city in the United States in the number of homicides. Only Memphis had more murders in the year just ended, he said in a stirring letter to The Constitution.

After congratulating The Constitution on its fearless fight to drive out the hidden gun from Atlanta and Georgia, Mr. Boykin avers that figures showing Atlanta sharing dishonor with Memphis "is enough to make the good people of Georgia hang their heads in shame."

"It reflects conditions, not of a civilized country, but of the jungle," the solicitor general states.

Letter In Full.

Here is Mr. Boykin's letter:

"Editor Constitution: Allow me to congratulate you upon the magnificent service you are rendering both to civilization and to humanity in your crusade against the sale of the deadly pistol, not only in Georgia, but throughout the country.

"I feel that I am in a position to know of the deadly havoc being wrought by the use of the handy pistol here in Fulton county.

"Official records for the past year obtained from reliable national sources and published throughout the country make exhibit of the deplorable fact that, next to Memphis, Atlanta holds the homicide record of the United States.

"These figures are indisputable, and they are enough to make our people hang their heads in shame, for they reflect conditions not of a great civilized community, but of the jungle.

"Where are we drifting that we should permit such things to continue?

Irresponsible Criminals.

"In the prosecution of my duties as solicitor general, cases innumerable are constantly coming to my attention of crimes being committed by irresponsible parties who can invest a dollar or so at a pawn shop, and under the heat of the moment take human life in the satisfaction of some grievance, real or imaginary.

"Do you wonder that there is constant banditry on our street corners and that human life is becoming cheaper every day?

"How can it be otherwise when a half-drunken negro or an irresponsible white man can buy a pistol with the ease that he can buy a ginger cake?

"The results of this monstrous evil could be greatly minimized and in time entirely remedied by legislative action that would put the sale of the pistol on the same basis as that of deadly drugs.

"I venture the assertion that if the pockets of hundreds of Decatur street loafers were searched any night an overwhelming percentage of the number would be found provided with the deadly pistol with which to take human life on the slightest provocation. Chief Jett, of the police department, has already testified to the alarming number of those arrested [illegible] concealed weapons.

"It is time for the conscience of the state to be aroused. It is time for the Christian manhood of Atlanta, of Georgia and of the whole country to do something to stop this death-dealing plague.

"It is time for our general assembly and for the national congress to stop quibbling about constitutional technicalities and to take such steps as will protect the public against this deadly evil.

"I congratulate you on the stand you have taken, and it should have the approval of every reputable high-minded, God-fearing humanitarian in Georgia.

"JOHN A. BOYKIN,
"Solicitor General.
"Atlanta, Ga., December 31, 1924."

ATLANTAN FAVORS STAND ON PISTOL.

"Editor Constitution: I write to commend you most heartily in your fight on 'pistol-toting.' Every good citizen should rally to your support, and I am sure they will. Any man, whoever he is, is a dangerous man when he is carrying a revolver of any description.

"I am certain that the majority of our people both in Atlanta and the state are law-abiding citizens, and desire right and truth to prevail. Selfishness, petty jealousies, personal ambitions and secret politics must be eliminated if Georgia and Atlanta are to occupy the place they should.

"THOMAS JOHNSON.
"1011 McGlawn building, Atlanta Ga., December 30, 1924."

MAKE PUNISHMENT CERTAIN, IS PLEA.

"Editor Constitution: While approving heartily of your crusade against sale of pistols, it seems to me that it is equally important to make the punishment of criminals more certain. Second trials are granted on legal technicalities that have no real bearing on the merits of the case, and when men are finally convicted and sentenced, the doors of the prison are hardly closed on them till movements are started to obtain pardon or parole.

"The result is seen in report of pardons and paroles granted in 1924. This shows that of 181 pardons granted, 50 were in cases of murder and manslaughter, and of 163 paroles issued 83 were to men convicted of murder, and 35 to those imprisoned for manslaughter. There are cases where convicts sentenced for life were pardoned within three years.

"CHARLES R. HASKINS.
"New Gould Building, Atlanta, Ga., December 31, 1924."

APPRECIATES STAND OF CONSTITUTION.

"Editor Constitution: I must express my very deep appreciation of The Constitution's stand against the pistol, not only against the sale by dealers but against the granting of license to individuals for the privilege of carrying a gun. But let us go further and have the manufacturers prevented by law from making the deadly weapons intended only to take human life, and to do it by carrying the little gun concealed.

"Let all of our representative women who are striving in so many ways to prevent crime and to help those who are in dire need give their aid in this all-important movement.

"MRS. N. AL KITCHENS.
"Chairman of American Citizenship for the Fourth District W. F. C.
"Warm Springs, Ga., December 31, 1924."

STRONG EDITORIAL READER ASSERTS.

"Editor Constitution: I am 68 years old and live on my farm and have for a long time been a subscriber to The Constitution. I have never read an editorial I so much appreciated as your recent denunciation of the deadly pistol.

"J. W. KING.
"Covington, Ga., Dec. 31, 1924."

WOULD STRENGTHEN ANTI-PISTOL LAWS.

"Editor Constitution: I have read your editorials on banning the pistol and I think you are right, and should be backed up by all good citizens everywhere.

"In 1923 when we were considering the general tax act in the legislature, I happened to walk down Decatur street one day, and noticed the attractive displays of pistols in the show windows. There they were ranging in price from one dollar up, and reflecting the rays of the noon-day sun, and at night the glare of the electric lights made them even more tempting to the criminal element. They were on Decatur street, too, where a larger per cent of criminals are supposed to gather than on any other street in Atlanta. When I got back to the capitol after lunch the first item reached was pistols. I was impressed to introduce an amendment to increase the license for selling pistols, and cartridges to a point where I thought it would be prohibitive, and few would be able to pay it, and stay in business, but the members were not in a humor for amendments that afternoon, so my amendment was lost with hundreds of others.

"I would be willing to pass a law if it can be done, and not interfere with interstate commerce, prohibiting pistols being shipped into Georgia and would prohibit their manufacture or sale in the state.

"I also think the law permitting one to carry a pistol after getting a special permit to do so should be repealed. I believe this law is being taken advantage of by many people.

"Then the law should be changed so that it would mean the chaingang when one was caught with a pistol concealed on the person or in their baggage. No fines should be allowed by the law.

"We must strengthen our laws, and enforce them, or life will become so cheap in Georgia that the life of no one will be safe, and then our state will receive the criticism of the nation to the shame of every true citizen.

"J. SCOTT DAVIS.
"Cave Springs, Ga., Dec. 31, 1924."

PISTOL AND LIQUOR CURSES OF HUMANITY.

"Editor Constitution: With delight I have been reading your editorials and the Lions' resolutions against the manufacture and sale of pistols and deadly firearms. I hope you will keep up the good fight until congress shall prohibit this awful habit of the people of our great country carrying pistols.

"If there was not a pistol in the world, nor a drop of liquor, the human race would be a long way better off. I am writing you to let you know I believe the good people of this grand old state are with you.

"JOHN T. ANDERSON.
"125½ Clayton Street, Athens, Ga."

CALLS ON OTHERS TO JOIN FIGHT.

"Editor Constitution: Your editorial of recent date is too good to let pass without complimenting you for the stand you have taken in regard to advertising the deadly pistol. It is a great step in the right direction. I cannot express how much my neighbors and myself appreciate it.

"I sincerely hope all the other newspapers will indorse what you say and follow the worthy example you have set.

J. C. HANSON.
"Jefferson, Ga., December 31, 1924."

PREDICTS SUCCESS FOR WAR ON PISTOL.

"Editor Constitution: Will you permit me to add my measure of praise of the splendid position taken by The Constitution with reference to outlawing the pistol. You are absolutely right that pistols should not be sold by, sold to or possessed by any persons whomsoever except those authorized by law.

"I predict that the stand The Constitution has taken and the views it has proclaimed will crystallize public sentiment, and I venture to express the hope that in the near future legislation by congress and the legislatures of the several states will effectually outlaw the pistol.

"WILLIAM G. SMITH,
"Vice President, American Railway Express Company, Atlanta, Ga."

"AMERICA, LAND OF MURDER."

The Indianapolis News, by the mere statement of a fact coins a phrase of invective, thus:

America is preeminently the land of murder—to its shame, be it said.

Statistics have become so familiar that they no longer shock us. We have indeed, been rather disposed to accept present conditions as part of the natural and normal order, and there is even a disposition to jest about killing." It is pretty hard nowadays, says the News, "to stage a sensational murder, since murder has ceased to be sensational."

The New remarks upon proposals to reduce homicides by more rigid control of the sale of firearms, and then returns to its bitter arraignment of the American failure to cope with crime conditions:

But back of everything lie a growing indifference to human life, and the lightness in which it is held. It is hard for one with any of the old-fashioned ideas, or who is at all tinctured with Christian principles, to imagine how one human being can ever bring himself to kill another. Yet murder after murder is committed for reasons that would not justify—would not be felt by the murderer himself to justify—a man in refusing to speak to another. Murder is committed much as one would swat a fly. It is much the same with suicide. All of which points to a low mentality. Our sensibilities have been blunted by other killings that are not murders.

There are those who are still blaming the World War for our latter-day crime waves, as if we did not have crime wave after crime wave before the guns rolled across the Belgian border in 1914. The Florida Times-Union seems to be of the opinion that we are now too far removed from the World War any longer to hold that wicked influence accountable for the

multitude.

We foresee that the American people are preparing to try another panacea. It appears now that the next reform will be passage of a law against the sale of revolvers. Public opinion is not yet ready for this, but we take it for granted that

this step will be taken in the near future, since we have tried everything else—except relentless punishment for killers.

We are not particularly concerned about the fate of the revolver. If it could be shown that prohibition of the sale of revolvers would materially lower our homicide record we should interpose no objection. But this has not been shown. We have seen no reliable statistical study of the weapons used in homicides, but our observation is that almost, if not quite, as many people are killed by long-barreled guns, axes, bludgeons, stones, knives, anesthetics and poisons as by pistols. The revolver is the favorite weapon of the burglar, the highwayman and the gangster, though it is by no means the sole reliance of these types. If they could not get revolvers, they would find other weapons. The revolver is by no means the favorite weapon of thousands of other killers—they use whatever means is at hand to snuff out the lives of their intended victims.

Again, is the sale of revolvers prohibited in Great Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries and Japan, to mention but a few countries where crimes of violence are incomparably less frequent than in this country? In each of those countries killers know they are going to be punished. In this country they know the chances of escaping punishment are about equal to their chances of being punished.

In those countries the law is feared by men of evil intent; in this country the law is a subject of jest and contempt. And the fault is not primarily with public officials, but with the people themselves.

Should News of Crime Be Suppressed?

"EVE," said Adam as he sat down to supper after a hard day spading up thistles, "the newspapers are paying too much attention to crime nowadays. It's disgusting the amount of space the Eden *Daily News* is giving to that Cain-Abel murder mystery."

"It ought to be stopped," responded Eve firmly. "I'll introduce a resolution about it at the next meeting of the Monday Night Women's Club."

We are not sure that this conversation is recorded in the Bible; but we are sure that it took place and that it has been repeated at countless supper-tables ever since, attaining the virulence of a general public discussion at intervals of every ten or twenty years.

We are having such a discussion now, and it has led newspapers in widely separated localities to experiment with the proposals suggested in the debate. The Fayetteville, North Carolina, *Observer* announced that for fifteen days it would eliminate accounts of all crime from its pages and see how readers liked it. In Des Moines, Iowa, the *Register*, acting at the suggestion of the women's clubs of the city, decided to experiment with keeping crime news off the front page, segregating it inside. The Decatur, Illinois, *Review* undertook to segregate crime inside and to label it as such so that it could easily be read or avoided. Various other journals have been trying one or another of these schemes. The Fayetteville *Observer* gave up its plan before the fifteen days were over, overwhelmed, so it said, with a demand for the old news in the old way. Other experiments still continue, and new ones will doubtless be initiated, but we predict that the total life of the movement will not exceed that of mah jong or the cross-word puzzle.

These periodical flare-ups against news of crime are based largely on misconceptions of what the newspapers ought to print or else on misconceptions of what they do print. A study of the front pages of eight prominent Eastern newspapers was made recently in the University of Pennsylvania. The front page was chosen as the "show window"—typical of the rest of the contents. Not only was all material classified as crime which recorded the commission or investigation of crime, but also that dealing with criminal-court proceedings and accidents involving a certain amount of criminality. Even this broad classification accounted for only 22.5 per cent of the front-page space, while political and governmental news occupied first place with 38.5 per cent. The managing editor of the Des Moines *Register*, in commenting on that newspaper's experiment, said it had demonstrated "that some at least of the news matter that the careless reader has classified as crime news and that he has been maddest about is not crime news at all." Quite so. Thousands of readers use "crime" as a symbol to describe whatever displeases them in a newspaper's bill of fare.

Unfortunately crime has been, is, and probably long will be one of the great, solid, inescapable facts in this intensely interesting human laboratory called the world. It has been the theme of a large part of the literature of all time. Some of the severest critics of crime news are members of our churches and devoted readers of the Bible. Do they forget that the Bible is perhaps the world's greatest compilation of crime? Any reform, it is admitted, must be preceded by a knowledge of the facts. An understanding of crime, a study of the motives and passions which direct men, is essential to anyone who would know his fellows or work for their betterment.

Crime is news. It is one of those unusual and abnormal aspects of life in which people generally are interested. The very fact that it is unusual and abnormal is evidence that the vast majority is law-abiding and socially minded. If Smith shoots his wife, it is news, and Brown wants to know about it. If Smith does not shoot his wife, Brown—who has not shot his either—does not ask that the fact be recorded in his daily newspaper, while Smith would be mad as a hornet if it were. Without doubt many persons get suggestions for crime from the newspapers; without doubt, also, many are deterred from crime through learning in the newspapers of its frequent failure, peril, and punishment.

And where shall we draw the line once we set out to eliminate or segregate news of crime? It is inextricably mixed with past and current history of the greatest moment. If a government official is found to be stealing or misusing public funds, that is crime news. Should it be suppressed? If a Wall Street broker is found to be running a bucket-shop, that is crime news. Should it be suppressed? If a hundred men are killed in a coal mine because the company has failed to comply with the safety laws, that is crime news. Should it be suppressed?

Obviously the present revival of the notion that news of crime should be kept out of the newspapers is a manifestation of the wave of censorship that is rolling over the country. It is part of the theory that some of us should regulate the amount and kind of truth which others should receive. Those who are most passionately advocating a suppression or sterilization of crime news are generally persons who like to call themselves "constructive." Yet in this respect they are championing purely destructive tactics; they are ignoring the one practicable way to improvement, which consists not in demanding that newspapers eliminate or segregate news of crime but that they *write about it truthfully*. Failure to do this, either deliberate or carelessly unintentional, is the real evil. When our newspapers are disgusting, degrading, and dangerous—as some undoubtedly are—it is not because they print news of crime but because they sentimentalize and distort it, because they garnish it with all the vulgar tricks of the "sob sister" and the rewrite man, because they dramatize it according to the hack rules of the hero-villain theory of life.

Every newspaper has its own public—a special group that it is reaching or aiming at. Wherever a group of sufficient size can express a desire for a truthful presentation of crime it can generally find a newspaper ready to cater to this wish. Most of our better metropolitan newspapers are already treating crime with more intelligence and taste than they showed twenty years ago, although the newly arrived tabloid dailies are exploiting it shamefully. In New York City, for instance, the better journals pass by a countless amount of such material every day because they regard it as too sordid or too commonplace. Selection and truthful presentation, not suppression—that is what the intelligent and conscientious should ask for. Even the *Christian Science Monitor*, contrary to common belief, prints some news of crime. It does so when it thinks that the crime in question seriously affects history. It recorded recently the shooting of the Sirdar of Egypt and has had some details about the assassinations in Bulgaria.

When we achieve the Perfect World we shall banish the newspapers. But by then we shall be ready

Crime — 1925.

General.

CRIME COMMISSION.

It is gratifying that at last definite steps toward the establishment of a functioning national crime commission have been taken, the purpose being to abate as far as is humanly possible the crime wave that is sweeping this country, and to take steps particularly to reduce the criminal tendency that exists among young people.

The preliminary meeting was called by Elbert H. Gary, head of the United States Steel corporation, in his offices in New York. This was attended by Governor Smith, representatives of the judiciary, the state senate, the police department, and big business interests.

Governor Smith proposed a concrete plan, which probably will mean the enactment of new crime laws in New York state.

Richard Washburn Child, who recently completed a crime survey in many parts of the country, outlined his findings and declared that within fifteen years the average age of persons committing crimes of violence had decreased ten years. President Coolidge will be asked to help the crusade against crime by national action.

The final action was a decision to form a national crime commission as soon as possible. Such a commission will establish a criminal laboratory, will study crime conditions and punitive measures in various states and will make available to all the country the best information obtainable.

The commission will be educational and, in a sense, critical. It will tell the officials, or whoever it may deem at fault in one community, that another community has met with success by adopting certain methods. Whether the community at fault will then act on the suggestion remains within its discretion. It was agreed that to accomplish educational work of this sort, and to awaken a strong, active anti-crime sentiment throughout the country, the national crime commission should be made up of citizens who are not connected with officialdom, and are therefore free to act and speak their minds to officialdom.

The national crime commission, others explained, would have its critical eye on the police, the judiciary, the prosecuting officials and the penal institutions and would make a thorough study of the methods of each.

The movement started is much needed. The situation today is nation wide. We hear of the "wave" in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, etc. But we also hear of it in Atlanta and Birmingham and Miami, etc.

The findings of the recent survey that the average age of criminals has reduced ten years in fifteen years is startling. Indeed, it is almost unbelievable, and yet we glance through the crime records and observe the ages of the criminals, and we are brought face to face with the facts.

The movement begun in New York, having no other purpose in view than to serve humanity through a lessening of crime, ought to meet with hearty encouragement everywhere.

The Constitution
8-22-25
Atlanta Ga.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AMONG NEGROES TOPIC OF LECTURES

J. F. Wright, of Detroit, Mich., executive secretary and founder of the Pathfinders of America, will deliver a series of lectures in Macon on "Crime Prevention and the School," "Humanization Through Education" and "Human Engineering and Character Building," beginning in the City Auditorium the night of August 27. His general subject on this occasion will be "Crime, the Cause, Cost and Cure." A splendid musical program will be given by some of the best talent of Macon and Savannah.

Both white and colored citizens are invited to attend this opening lecture at the auditorium and the others which will follow on August 28 and 30 at Allen Chapel, A. M. E. church on North street.

Mr. White was invited to come here by the Macon Council Pathfinders of America, to teach lessons in character building among the colored people of Macon, with a view to blotting out crime, disease, extravagance and improper living. He has spent more than forty years studying the human problem of all ages, sexes and nationalities, including ten years among men and women convicted of all kinds of crime and three years among children of the fifth and higher grades in the public schools.

"Crime, we are told, costs American business ten billion dollars a year. The property loss alone, it is [illegible] is $3,500,000. The remainder of the ten billion dollars, total is to be charged to the expense of policing the country, paying the salaries of court functionaries, maintaining penitentiaries, prisons, jails, reformatories and—yes, asylums," says Mr. Wright. Policing expense, of course, comes out of our taxes. And who pays the greater portion of the taxes? Mr. American Business Man.

"And the remedy. What is the remedy? It's all very well to imprison criminals, relieving society meanwhile of their demoralizing influence, but is there some other remedy, some way to prevent men and women from becoming criminals in the first place, and to turn their propensities into honest and useful channels?

"The Pathfinders of America believe there is such a remedy—a remedy, some way to prevent men tively. But what are the Pathfinders of America? They call themselves 'human engineers'—character builders. Character building, so the Pathfinders believe, ought to start early; it ought to start, they contend, in the schools. Reform work in the prisons, reformatories, jail and settlement houses? Yes, the Pathfinders indorse that; in fact they're doing much of that themselves. But the place for the emphasis, so they hold, is the schoolroom."

PUNISHMENT FOR DEBT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The Atlanta Independent

It is contrary to the genius of our institutions to imprison a citizen for debt. The constitution of both Federal and State governments prohibit such punishment. Our fathers wisely included this provision in the inorganic law of our country to protect the poor and the weak from the rich and the oppressive. Therefore, it is set out in the constitution of the Federal and State governments that a citizen shall not be thrown into prison for debt. But the constitution does not mean, and never intended that a citizen should evade the payment of honest debts by hiding behind this provision. The law contemplates that the citizen is honest and upright, and will do whatever he can to meet his duties to the state and the individual. Our fathers had in mind honest men, and made the provision that in the event of an honest effort to meet honest debts, that if the citizen failed, he should not be imprisoned for debt, but should be left free and unincarcerated that he might work out in time all his problems. Neither did the forefathers contemplate or intend that money sharks and slave drivers should lead government employees into debts that they could not reasonably pay, and then to use the government as a collection bureau to collect their usurious debts or have them separated from the services, placing them in a position where they could neither pay their debts nor support their dependents.

The Independent believes in the honest payment of every debt, and repudiates evasions and subterfuges to defeat payment. We think a man should be cautious and make debts within his ability to pay, and we do not believe that the government or any of its departments should be used as a big stick or a collecting agency to collect money for money sharks or anybody else.

There is a class of Shylocks who make a practice of lending government employees money beyond their ability to pay. They urge and encourage them to enter this embarrassment, and when they collect from them until they have collected at least 125 per cent of their obligation, then they begin a campaign of nagging the debtor and annoying the government until the government becomes irritated, and is forced to discharge the employee to get rid of a nuisance. These money sharks charge all the way from 25 to 100 per cent for money, and the government places itself in an ugly attitude when it permits these criminals to collect their unjust claims through it as an agency for discharge the employee. The money sharks know that if the employee loses his job that he cannot pay him. Therefore he never begins his campaign of embarrassment until he has collected 125 per cent of his claims. Then it matters not with him whether he gets the balance of his blood money or the poor devil is discharged.

In many cases where government officers are small themselves and inject their personal dislike of inferiors into their official duties, they take advantage of the money sharks charges to get rid of a faithful employee. Government officers should not loan themselves to Shylocks who oppress debtors. And it seems probable that if the law does not permit a citizen to be imprisoned for debt that he should not be discharged for debt, for both, or either, is punishment for debt. If the average citizen were placed in jail on account of debt, we would have to increase our jail facilities, for at least 50 per cent of the people would be in jail all the time, and there would be nobody to work or earn a living, and the masses would be public charges upon the tax payers. The government should go carefully and slowly in discharging an of-

ficer for debt. A superior officer should be careful in making a recommendation to discharge an inferior for debt. He should have both the money shark and the employee to understand that the government will not tolerate either, and that both must adjust themselves to the plain meaning of the law. There are too many superior officers ready to recommend the removal of inferiors for debt, and it is hard for them to express themselves without showing personal interest beyond public duty.

The practice of dismissing an employee because he owes a money shark a debt is just as baneful to good government as the principle of imprisonment of a citizen for debt. Punishment for debt by discharging an officer is equivalent to imprisonment for debt, and the man who discharges or recommends a fellow worker to be separated from his meat and bread on account of his debts violates the constitution just as much as if he had thrown the unfortunate devil into prison for debt. The throwing of a man out of a job because he is unfortunately in debt is only another way to deprive a citizen of his rights and privileges without due process of law.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

In the current issue of the Literary Digest are two social documents of great interest and importance, and one of them is genuinely depressing to thoughtful Americans. It is a review of recent studies of crime conditions in the United States. The other document is a review of British press comment upon the discovery that there are fewer prisoners in Britain than in 1914, indeed that more than 20 prisons have been closed.

Our press is stunned by America's crime and prison statistics showing as they do an appalling increase in the number of offenders of all classes. Our press is debating, somewhat vehemently, the question, "What shall we do about it?" One section asserting that we should make punishment quicker and severer everywhere in the country, another section asserting that we should be even more lenient and merciful to prisoners, that we should abolish capital punishment, and otherwise give law-breakers every chance to reform.

The British press also is discussing this question. It is admitted that the decreased prison population in Britain since 1914 is due to the new policy of putting mild offenders on probation before jailing them. The editors say there has been no great decrease in serious crimes in Britain since 1914, but state that there is a decrease since the post-war crime wave reached its zenith. The crime curve is lowering in Britain, where it was not high to begin with. The issue among amateur penologists and criminologists in Britain is whether punishment is not too severe. A prominent official of the British Foreign Office is quoted as saying: "Prison does not reform a person who commits a crime, and should only be used as a last resort."

But the record shows that something has kept order in Great Britain. It is known that British justice has moved swiftly and surely whenever the law was violated. Americans naturally assumed that this had something to do with the low crime rate. We still believe it is an important factor in controlling the situation.

Anyway, we don't enforce law very systematically or resolutely in the United States, and we have more crime than any other civilized country on earth. Ours is not a crime wave, says a writer, but a tide of crime—murder, arson, robbery, burglary, larceny after trust, corruption, and all the rest. We are forming a National Crime Commission and launching a crusade against lawlessness throughout the country.

A Chicago judge declares that crime conditions in the United States today amount almost "to an armed insurrection." The figures show that the homicide record rate in New York and Chicago is about one a day as compared with one in two weeks in London. In all England and Wales with 40,000,000 people, there were less than 200 killings in 1923. Richard Washburn Child, who is writing a series of impressive articles on crime for the Saturday Evening Post, says: "St. Louis, all alone, without help from anyone, did better than that in 1924. But our killing record as a nation is best exhibited in the grand total." During the 10 years ending in 1923, according to the American Bar Association, 100,000 of our citizens "perished by poison, pistol, knife or other unlawful and deadly injury."

In 1919 Chicago had 2,000 more burglaries than London. In the same year only 29 highway robberies in all France as against 1,087 in St. Louis, and 1,862 in Chicago. Burglary insurance in the United States has gone up about 50 per cent in 10 years. Actual money losses from crime in 1924, says Mr. Child, amounted to $4,000,000,000; he understands the statisticians to say that the entire cost of crime, including the cost of police and courts, amounts to $10,000,000,000 a year. He is convinced that all this loss of life, security and property is due to the fact that crime goes unpunished or is too mildly punished. The Boston Post agrees with him, and says:

> The only way to stop crime is to punish the guilty and do it quickly, firmly and severely. The trouble at present is that we are spending millions of dollars and valuable time in providing ways to "reform" criminals and make it easier for persons who ought to be in jail to escape the law. The whole army of criminal experts, probation officers and publicity-seeking judges are trying to educate the public to the idea that no crime deserves real punishment. They are full of theories for coddling criminals and excuses for bandits, thugs and the lawless generally. And they are spending our good money to this end.
>
> There is no new way to deal with crimnals. The experience of centuries has shown that tolerance is fatal. No lawbreaker fears anything but swift and certain punishment. He can't be turned from his evil ways by appeals to his "better nature." He needs but one lesson—stern justice.
>
> Let citizens, juries and judges do their duty fearlessly and strictly. Put the criminals where they belong. Stop this nonsense of coddling lawbreakers. Get back to sane justice. That's the only medicine for the disease.

One realistic writer states the situation in this way: "While England is putting 'to let' signs on its prisons, prisons in all parts of the United States are overflowing."

OTHER PAPERS SAY

NEGROES AND CRIME

[Indianapolis News]

The Chicago Defender, a newspaper published by and for Colored people, prints a cartoon showing that in the offices of newspapers published by white people there is great rejoicing when a Negro is charged with crime, but that little attention is paid to stories of white criminals. The cartoon is accompanied by editorial comment that says:

"This attitude of the white press is responsible for the disrespect—the general abhorrence with which we are regarded by a great percentage of the white population. It accounts for many outbreaks between the races. It keeps the races distrustful of each other and fills impressionistic children with a lot of hokum intended to instill within them a great fear of the 'black brute.' The white press is responsible for a situation which it alone may remove. It is also bringing about a condition of unrest and general ill-feeling to that part of the population so abused. The white press, being wise, knows that this condition will not remain as it is, but will grow worse. Smoldering fires of hatred of each other by two races, fanned by a malicious press, will result in a conflagration that certainly cannot help the press."

Anyone who reads the newspapers knows that this sweeping indictment is false, and that there is no anti-Negro propaganda. Even in the South the newspapers are temperate in their treatment of Negroes charged with crime. Indianapolis is a typically American city, with a large Negro population. The records of the police department show a relatively high number of arrests of Colored persons, for all sorts of crimes, but no effort has been made by the newspapers to single out the Negro as a law violator. Three Negro murders over the week-end a short time ago attracted no more than usual attention. There is plenty of anti-crime sentiment in Indianapolis, but it is directed at no particular race.

John Thomas Shaw, charged with the Helen Whelchel murder, had every opportunity for a fair trial, including an appeal to the Supreme court, which set aside the verdict. He is now in the Michigan City prison awaiting a new trial. The Negroes in this community are treated fairly, not only by the newspapers but by the public generally. Such nonsense as The Chicago Defender prints does the Race much harm and is an appeal to prejudice.

Crime - 1925.

Georgia.

VALDOSTA, GA. Dis.
SEP 14 25

NEGROES IN NORTH FILLING PRISONS

Ohio Warden Gives Migration as the Cause of Increase in Jail Population

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 14.—That negroes lured from their homes to Ohio in a hope of finding plenty of work at big pay have been responsible for the increase in the population at the Ohio penitentiary is shown in the annual report of Warden Thomas, according to news received by the Atlanta chamber of commerce.

This report shows that 1,211 prisoners were received in the penitentiary from June 30, 1924, to the same date this year. Of this number 341 were from southern states. Kentucky led with 85, while Tennessee was second with a quota of 43. Alabama and Georgia each sent in 41 colored prisoners, and North Carolina sent 36 with Virginia following with 29.

West Virginia's contribution to the population was 31, while South Carolina natives numbered 16, Mississippi 11, Florida 7, and Louisiana 9.

"These negroes came north expecting to find plenty of easy work with high pay, and when they are unable to find this they are easily led into committing crime," Director Harper said in discussing the report.

Transportaton officials in Atlanta said today that many negroes who went north some months ago are returning to their homes in the South and that others will follow as soon as railroad fare is sent to them by their families and white friends.

Trial by Fury

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: A few summers ago a young, half-ignorant, and poorly paid Negro teacher attending a summer school in the South raised a money order from $4 to $14. She gave the money order in payment for her board bill of $3.50. The bookkeeper, not noticing the alteration, accepted the money order and simply wrote across it "$10.50 due," as he did not have the change. Later during the day the girl was given her change. The bookkeeper was a graduate from the business department of a well-known Northern college. The fraud, which was detected neither by the local banker nor by the local postmaster, was discovered by the inspector in Atlanta. The girl was arrested and the bookkeeper was called as the chief witness for the State. The Negro girl, through an influential white man, got a white lawyer to defend her. The bookkeeper was called to the stand. He was first examined by the State. Then the lawyer for the girl began his examination.

Lawyer. What is your name?

Bookkeeper. John Doe.

Lawyer. Where do you live?

Bookkeeper. In X (in a Southern State).

Lawyer (impatiently). Nigger, you know what I mean. Where were you born?

Bookkeeper. In Y (a Northern State).

Lawyer. See, gentlemen of the jury, here is one of these yaller Northern niggers. Doe, what do you do at the school?

Bookkeeper. I'm the bookkeeper.

Lawyer. Bookkeeper! I didn't know any nigger knew anything about bookkeeping. What do you do?

The bookkeeper explained his work. The lawyer then passed the altered money order to him.

Lawyer. Doe, have you ever seen that money order before?

Bookkeeper (after examining it). Why, yes, I recognize my notation of $10.50 for change.

Lawyer (triumphantly). You see, gentlemen of the jury, this yaller nigger, Doe, raised the money order. Look how he is dressed. A dude. A yaller Northern nigger all dressed up. Raises a money order to buy a new pair of pants. Doe, didn't you raise that money order to buy a new pair of pants?

Bookkeeper. What advantage could it have been to me? Only the girl or the school could have gained by the counterfeit.

Lawyer. You see, gentlemen of the jury, this is one of those smart yaller Northern niggers. Doe, you yaller nigger, own up that you raised that money order.

Bookkeeper. I did not.

Lawyer. Gentlemen of the jury, Doe is a yaller nigger. He is a Northern nigger. Now, gentlemen of the jury, you know how he got yaller. Now, are you going to let him get away. Doe, you yaller nigger you, are you going to confess?

Bookkeeper. I have nothing to confess.

Lawyer. Doe, you yaller, Charlie-Chaplin mustache, carpet-bagger nigger, you raised that money order to buy clothes to dress up in like a sport. Gentlemen of the jury, are you going to let this yaller, Charlie-Chaplin mustache, carpet-bagger nigger get away with this?

Judge (interrupting). You can call Doe all the kinds of niggers you want, but don't refer to the State he is from.

The prosecuting attorney also interrupted to say that Doe's mustache was as well arranged as the lawyer's. The lawyer, in closing his argument, emphasized again to the jury that the bookkeeper was a "yaller nigger" from the North and cautioned those gentlemen to bear in mind, especially, why he was yellow.

The jury deliberated for nearly two hours; they decided the girl was the guilty one.

Atlanta, Georgia, September 3 E. Franklin Frazier

OFFICERS AND PISTOLS

Several cases are on record here where officers of the law have used their pistols many times too often, thus causing preventable tragedies. Within the year three colored men have been the victims of these careless officers who were assigned to protect citizens. The most distressing result is that the officer will not only be exonerated, but allowed to remain in office, thus prepared to again send into eternity the next person they fancy so direct. Well, their victims were colored men. The victims nor their humble relatives had no standing in court and were not able to secure legal aid to bring the slayers to justice.

On the other hand, last week near Gainesville, this state, a white man was accused of violating the prohibition law. Two officers attempted to place him under arrest. He attempted to escape. The officers fired upon him. He died after being taken to the hospital. Even before he died the officers were placed under arrest and are now in jail charged with murder. The outcome of the case can not be judged, but it is felt that some penalty will be inflicted upon them. On the other hand the slayers of the colored victims here are still swinging their clubs. Justice is indeed blind.

CONVICT PUNISHMENT

Years ago the scandal of Georgia's convict camps was nauseating to the public. The people in righteous indignation arose and compelled a reformation. Not only was the nefarious lease system abolished, but later years the lash was outlawed. Occasionally some advocates of the lash are heard from, but the sentiment is now thoroughly against its use. Not being able to use the convenient lash, the prison guards are resorting to other subterfuges for punishment, some as harsh as those of primeval ages. Numerous complaints have been made and charge preferred against the guards. Cases are now being investigated by the prison commissioners. This may result in a recommendation to the next legislature to also outlaw such harsh treatment of convicts. Because a man is charged with an offense against the law and sentenced to pay the penalty, is no reason whatsoever for treating him inhumanly. All are God's creatures, and as such should be accordingly meted proper protection.

THIS IS MURDER

Last week a policeman saw a colored man coming over a fence. He attempted to arrest him. The man ran. He was not a murderer. So far as the personal knowledge of the officer was concerned, he had committed no offense other than he was seen jumping a fence. The policeman ran the man down and deliberately murdered him. The policeman's life was not in danger. As he was aware, the murdered man was not attempting to molest anyone other than trying to prevent being arrested, and because he tried to escape the very officer who is being paid to uphold the law and protect the citizens, became one of the worst offenders by shooting at the escaping man and sent a fatal bullet into his body which caused his death. He was only a colored man. Very little interest was shown in his welfare. His humble family and immediate friends were sadly bereaved. Being badly dominated by superior powers they had no redress, but humbly submitted. The policeman was acquitted. He was held blameless. He was told that his act was justifiable. He is still on the force. He is still inclined to shoot down the very next colored man who attempts to escape arrest, no matter how trivial the offense may be, and if so, the same powers that acquitted him of this murder charge, will do so again, the victim will only be a Negro. Great God! How can any christian community stand acts of this kind? Where is the conscience of the people? God is not dead. There must be some outstanding citizens in Savannah who will stand up for the right and see that justice is upheld even if the victim is only an humble Negro.

The policeman should be brought to justice. The case should be presented to the Grand Jury. A warrant should be sworn out charging him with murder. The family and friends of the murdered man should see that it be done. Let them confer with the Solicitor General and by no means allow the wanton murder to go by without some attempt to entice justice into it. The Supreme Court of this state says an act of this kind is murder.

chance to secure ready employment.

It is reported that several of the factories are in need of more help. This will be readily secured if pay similar to that elsewhere, is allowed.

In order to force men to work the city officers are using intimidation by making wholesale arrests of colored men regardless to occupation. These arrests are doing the city more harm than good. It will cause scores of men to leave the city and seek employment elsewhere, and not only that, when the report goes out about the action of the police others who were inclined to come here to live, will not do so.

It is regretted that the police decided to make these arrests this week, at a time when there are hundreds of prominent visitors in the city from various parts of the country. The Tribune and all prominent citizens have been loud in praising Savannah and the cordial relation between the races. All that they have been saying were refuted Wednesday morning when the patrol wagon gathered in dozens of colored men charged with vagrancy. No discrimination was made whatever. Workingmen, old citizens, young and old were humiliated by policemen, several of whom were uncouth in their action. Our visitors saw these sights. They will leave here with a bitter taste in their mouth about Savannah. In the face of this action how can we sing Savannah's praise to the people in other sections of the country.

We are in favor of making the vagrants work, if not for themselves, then for the county, but innocent men should not be molested. Then too, if the same crusade was made against white loafers, there could be but slight cause to complain, but they are not molested and when hard working colored men are humiliated, it is high time for vigorous protests to be made.

Mayor Hull is a just man. He will not knowingly do a thing to unjustly affect the colored people. It is felt that he will apply the proper remedy.

Murder Cases In 1925 Break Fulton Record

Seventy-Three Indictments Are Returned in First Nine Months.

The nine months of 1925, ending with November 1, saw the largest number of indictments for murder in the history of Fulton county, according to statistics made public Saturday by Lewis P. Jones, chief clerk in the office of Solicitor General John Boykin. The report shows that 73 persons have been indicted since January 1.

More than 27 per cent of those indicted for murder are fugitives from justice, 20 alleged criminals being at large, according to Mr. Jones' report.

Nineteen persons, or 26 per cent of those indicted, have been convicted in Fulton superior courts. Only one was given the death penalty, and seven were given life sentences.

Eighteen per cent of the number indicted were found not guilty by juries in the two criminal divisions of the county court, there being 13 persons acquitted. Two cases were nol prossed by the solicitor general.

Grand juries before whom various murders have been unfolded by the solicitor general have failed to indict only three accused persons during the nine months' period.

Sentences varying from 8 to 20 years have been meted to convicted persons in four cases, one receiving 8-10 years, a second 12-20 years, a third 15-20 years and one given the maximum penalty for voluntary manslaughter 20 years. Three others have been given sentences of from 1 to 20 years for involuntary manslaughter, according to the digest.

There are 14 murder cases on the calendar and probably will be tried before the end of the present year. One accused murderer died in the hospital.

Records show that nearly two persons per week have been indicted for murder so far this year.

Primitive Methods Of Punishing Convicts Found in State Camps

Macon, Ga., November 15.—(Special.)—J. F. Malone, chairman of a committee from the legislature to investigate prison camps, is just back from an inspection of the camps in Treutlen, Bulloch, Screven, Laurens and Johnson counties. He declared today that while primitive methods of punishing convicts were found in some camps, taking the situation as a whole "the committee did not find anything to overly complain of."

In four convict camps, Mr. Malone stated there were stocks for the prisoners, one of these antiquated punishment devices being found: two with the corners chopped off and one cut squarely so that the edges would cut into the flesh of the prisoners.

It was No. 2 camp in Laurens county, he said, where the stocks with the square holes to receive the prisoners' arms and legs, were found.

"In three camps of Laurens county," said Mr. Malone, "we found that prisoners who were violating rules were being punished by tying them up by their arms so that their toes barely touched the ground."

"The best camp that we found on the tour of inspection," continued Mr. Malone, "was in Swainsboro, Emanuel county, where R. L. Stanley is warden. It is a model camp and I think it would pay every county in the state to send its wardens there to ascertain how to properly care for the convicts. He knows how."

PROTEST POLICE CRIME

A committee representing the colored ministers waited upon the race relations committee last Tuesday, praying assistance in reaching the authorities in protest against the tragedies committed by policeman. It resulted in the appointment of a committee to take the matter up with the proper officials. No doubt it will result in effective good. While the poor victims may remain unavenged except by the power of Him who states that "vengeance is mine," yet the next officer who may be thus inclined may be restrained to let the ever-ready pistol remain in the holster and use same only in case of dire necessity.

Crime—1925.

Georgia

WHITE MAN GETS LIFE FOR SLAYING COLORED BOY AT SAVANNAH, GA.

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 11.—Louis Lightfoot, 19 years old, has been convicted here of shooting and killing Eddie Sharpe, a Negro, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life. This is the first time in many years that a white man has been convicted of murder for killing a Negro here.

BANK TELLER AND NEGRO HELD FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Macon Movie House Financed By Bank's Funds, Charged.

MACON, GA., Jan. 24.—Willis Braswell, Negro proprietor of a motion picture show, today was under arrest here on a felony warrant in connection with the alleged embezzlement of $12,864, funds from the Citizens' and Southern bank, by Henri W. Dorset teller. Dorset, who was arrested early this morning, has been unable to make bond.

County officers allege that Dorset financed the new motion picture house here for Negroes with the bank's funds, taking a retainer title on the property and arranging to split fifty-fifty with the proprietor in the profits

COLORED MATRON AT BARRACKS

Appionted to Fill Long Felt Need

Last week Mrs. Mary J. Cade was appointed matron at the Police Barracks and she has already begun discharging her duties.

The need for a matron at this place has been apparent for some time. At times the yard and ground have contained a number of colored prisoners badly needing supervision and help. A matron there will be the means of clearing conditions that have not been at all satisfactory and undoubtedly be the directing star of the unfortunates in leading better lives.

No more satisfying selection could have been made than Mrs. Cade. She is an old citizen and fully conversant with work of this kind. For some time she has been assisting Mrs. Rachel Moore at the Industrial Farm for delinquent boys, and there her sympathy for the work was proven.

Improved conditions around the barracks can be immediately noted.

LAWLESSNESS BEGETS LAWLESSNESS

The Independent has contended for twenty years as a part of its fight against mob rule, that the lynching of a Negro was the first step to lynching a white man. That lawlessness begets lawlessness and the white man's way of enforcing the law against Negroes, and his slackness in enforcing the law against white men, would breed a class of white criminals that would not know color line, whose chief object would be crime. There are far too many murders going on in this country, and the murdered are white men by white men. If a white man feels that he can kill a Negro and get away with it because he is a white man, why shouldn't he reason that he could kill a white man and get away with it because he is white?

The shocking murder of Prof. W. C. Wright, at Eatonton, is only one example of the administrators of the law's indulgence in crime. Lawlessness cannot be suppressed by enforcement against black folk and slackness against white folk. Neither can the law be enforced by spasms. It must be steadily and firmly enforced all the time against crime. These young white boys who murdered Prof. Wright, whose only offense against them was to do them a kindness, possibly have often seen or read about white men in the south burning Negroes at the stake, gouging out their eyes with hot irons, sticking red hot pokers through their ears, dismembering their bodies, and taking parts of their victims to show to their friends as souvenirs. Why shouldn't a young boy reared in such environment where the white man is law unto himself, and its is understood that the law is only for the punishment of the Negro and license for white men to do as they please, commit the crime of a ride in his automobile to Taylor County, the two white fellows who killed the Lieutenant in South Carolina, and the youths who murdered Professor Wright because he gave them a lift in his automobile a few days ago.

Bloodworth and Jones, and the boys who killed Prof. Wright ought to be hanged just as the young fellows were hung who killed the lieutenant in South Carolina. The lawyers representing Bloodworth and Jones in Taylor county are making a mockery of the law. There is no extenuating circumstance pointing to the commutation of these boys' sentence from the gallows to life imprisonment. The law must be vindicated. Life is too cheap in our state, and white men must be hanged and punished in the penitentiary with the same degree, rigor, and determination that Negroes are punished and hanged in the penitentiary. The dual system so long in vogue in our state has lived its day, and the enforcement of law and order against crime and criminals is the order of the day. Governor Walker started out the first of the year a great movement—a law and order conference, but for some reason or other it died a-borning.

Let us pray and hope that the murderers who lynched Proffessor Wright be brough to trial immediately, and just punishment inflicted without equivocation or technical delay in the law. A lawyer should be debarred who tries to defeat justice purely on technicalities. Justice to a client does not require truth to be made a lie

HIGHWAY HOMICIDES.

The people of Georgia have been stirred by the tragedy of the highway that snuffed out the life of Professor William Crosby Wright, county superintendent of Putnam county. Having devoted a lifetime to building character and understanding in young people and to promoting peace and human sympathy among all persons, that his people assembled at Eatonton Sunday to pay tribute to the dead educator, while three young men, almost boys, languished in jail charged with the murder. If guilty, as the courts in orderly process will establish, the murderers should, and no doubt will, pay the penalty of the crimes under the Georgia laws.

These homicides of the highways are becoming alarming. It is not the first time in this state that a benefactor has been murdered by those he befriended in offering a ride to one or more strange pedestrians. The whole state was stirred by a similar crime in northeast Georgia just a few weeks ago. Nor are such crimes confined to Georgia. The ruthless murder of an army officer in Carolina just a few months ago, under similar circumstances, is readily recalled. For weeks the missing officer was sought. His abandoned car was found by the roadside. And finally a brush-heap gave up its dead.

The murderers in this instance, as in practically all, were found and tried and convicted of a capital offense. The law and the courts may be depended upon. The people of Putnam county are to be commended, in the hour of their outraged grief, at their respect for law and orderly procedure. It will finish the job, and finish it right.

In the meantime the highways of Georgia are congested with tramps moving back to the north from a Florida wintering. Automobilists should be cautious in offering them "lifts." Human sympathy is so broad and so impulsive that the disposition to thus help a "weary" is impelling, but it is better that every law abiding unfortunate should tramp the lengths of their journeys than to have one W. C. Wright killed by a soulless criminal.

NEGRO MINISTERS JOIN IN CRUSADE

AGAINST PISTOL

Cooperation Promised by A. M. E. Union—Representative Owen To Lead in Legislative Fight.

Representative negro ministers from all over the state of Georgia have joined in branding the concealed pistol a menace to humanity.

The committee on civic righteousness of the African Methodist-Episcopal Ministers' Union of Atlanta has issued a report, eulogizing The Constitution's determined stand against the sale and manufacture of the pistol.

Denounce Pistol Sales.

The report follows:

"To the President and Members of the A. M. E. Ministers' Union:

"We, your committee on civic righteousness, beg leave to submit the following:

"Your committee cannot afford to sit idly by while others are taking the lead in a fight to do away with pistol 'toting' and are using their best endeavors to outlaw the use and even the manufacture of such deadly weapons, which have proven to be one of the strongest and most effective enemies of good government; we therefore desire that our union go on record as one of the defenders and supporters of every movement which goes to make for good government, and for the protection of human life and limbs.

"Your committee is in hearty accord with the courts and judges in imposing upon the violators of the law, and hope to see that both races, irrespective of color or nationality, be meted out the same penalty before the judges and courts.

"Your committee believes it to be our duty, first of all, to help in the heavy fines, or chaingang sentences, salvation of the people before bringing them into the courts and having them branded as criminals. We believe that every means should be exhausted by the church and the civil authorities to help save the people before condemning them."

The report was signed by L. A. Townsley, chairman and secretary; John Harmon, presiding elder, Griffin district; H. D. Canady, presiding elder; J. L. Butler, pastor of Big Bethel in the Atlanta district; J. H. McFaddin, presiding elder; C. G. Gray, pastor Cosmopolitan; W. Boyd Laurence, pastor St. Paul; W. G. Alexander, Dean, Turner Theological seminary; J. T. Wilkerson, presiding elder, Athens district.

Congratulates Constitution,

The following letter was received by The Constitution from J. C. Owen, a member of the legislature, from Pike county:

"Allow me to congratulate you on your fight on the pistol evil. I am glad that you have had the courage to open fire on them, and I want you to keep on shooting until the deadly pistol is a thing of the past. It is estimated that, under the constitution, pistols cannot prohibit the manufacture of arms, but if so, is there any reason why the type of arms cannot be changed. The Constitution's fight against pistols at its regular monthly meeting tonight.

Rev. C. N. Donaldson, in a letter

League Aids in Fight.

The Men's Service League of the Westminster Presbyterian church will adopt resolutions praising The Constitution now, as a member of the legislature, to draft and in-

people are killed in one year in her of the legislature, from Pike county:

"Allow me to congratulate you on your fight on the pistol evil. I am glad that you have had the courage to open fire on them, and I want you to keep on shooting until the deadly pistol is a thing of the past. Statistics were furnished, showing how many people are killed in one year in her

to The Constitution, praised the bill of Senator Clapper, which would prohibit the sale and manufacture of pistols in the District of Columbia. Rev. Donaldson also commended The Constitution for its stand against itinerant firearms.

Decatur Church Acts.

Here are some of the letters and editorials from the state press:

"Editor Constitution—At a recent meeting of the Men's Bible class of the First Presbyterian church, of Decatur, a resolution was adopted commending the attitude of your paper in regard to the carrying of pistols.

"The members of this class feel that you are rendering the public a real service in this matter and they want you to know that they appreciate it.

"With best wishes, I am,

"Yours very truly,

"ROBERT C. W. RAMSPECK,
"Secretary."

Decatur, Ga., January 7, 1925.

Heavy Pistol Licenses.

"Editor Constitution: The board of commissioners of this city is so thoroughly in accord with The Constitution in its campaign against the deadly pistol that at their regular meeting this week an ordinance was adopted making the license to sell pistols and cartridges, or either of them, $500.

"As a demonstration that The Constitution's campaign against pistols is having a marked effect on the people of this state, the dealers in pistols of this city suggested that the board of commissioners of this city put a prohibitive license on the sale of pistols.

"The full effect of The Constitution's campaign against pistols will not be fully realized until after the next session of the general assembly when it is certain that proper legislation will be enacted to ban the pistol in this state.

"W. E. SMITH.

Manchester, Ga.

Comment of the Georgia press follows:

Another Shot at Pistols.

(From Columbus Ledger.)

The lower house of congress has passed a bill restricting the use of the United States mails for the transportation of firearms that can be concealed upon the person. Thus comes nearly to an end the long disparity between local and federal laws. Local police have been doing their utmost to curb the traffic of pistols, but any crook could order his pistols sent by mail and have them delivered into his hands by Uncle Sam. If the law covered the transportation of publications advertising small arms, the situation would be more fully met, as far as the law can meet it.—(From the Dearborn Independent.)

"The short gun is nearing its row's end. Should it be barred from the mails local governments could at least control the distribution.

"The pistol is a menace, and it really ought to go."

The Pistol Must Go!

(From Clayton County News.)

"An editorial appeared in The Constitution last Saturday on the subject of the pistol and its uses. We must say that the article is timely indeed and brings home some truths that would be well for all law-abiding citizens to consider. So soon as public sentiment is aroused sufficiently the pistol will be put away forever and a day. The pistol is made for the express purpose of taking human life and should be outlawed from society."

Chief Who Never Uses Pistol, Hits Sale of Weapons

Americus, Ga., January 14.—(Special.)—Pistols in the hands of irresponsible and whisky-crazed persons have brought sorrow into many homes and caused more life sentences to be served, perhaps, than any other one thing, in the opinion of John T. Bragg, chief of police of Americus.

Chief Bragg, who recently completed seventeen years of service as a member and head of the Americus police department, is an ardent advocate of more stringent laws regarding the sale of these weapons, and is outspoken in his commendation of the campaign being waged by The Constitution to prevent their further sale in Georgia.

According to Chief Bragg, many negroes who otherwise might become useful workers spend years of their lives as prisoners in chain-gangs everywhere as the result of the case with which pistols may now be acquired. Many of them believe it "smart" to go about armed with a concealed pistol, some of them actually denying themselves and their families the necessities of life in order to buy pistols which finally land them in the penitentiary or send to the gallows," he said.

"Every gathering of negroes nowadays," he says, "is the signal for a large percentage of those present to don their artillery and mingle with the multitude, ready on slight provocation to kill or maim their fellow-being and thenceforth become hunted beings or jail-birds."

Ordinarily, he says, dealers in pistols in Georgia exercise certain discretion in selling these weapons to negroes and young boys, and in this way assist the authorities in their efforts to reduce crime. Not so, however, with the distant mail order house, he says. Anybody can secure these deadly weapons from such a source provided he or she has the cash. It is even easier to buy a pistol by mail than to come into Americus and get one from a regularly licensed dealer he says, because the order may be mailed from any rural route box and within a few days the pistol will be delivered C. O. D. by the postman.

Perhaps the most potent agency in the effort to stop the sale of pistols in this manner, Chief Bragg believes, will be the suppression of their advertising in newspapers and periodicals, a movement in which The Constitution has taken the lead.

"Many brave officers have given their lives in defense of society during the past few years in various parts of Georgia, sacrificed as victims to some whisky-soaked negro or drug-crazed white man running amuck with a pistol in his hand. The widows and little orphans of these officers will, I am sure, back the campaign against the pistol 100 per cent, and I sincerely hope the legislature at its next session will give this problem conscientious consideration," said Chief Bragg today.

"During all of the 17 years I have been a member of the police force of Americus, I have resorted to the use of my pistol but once in effecting an arrest, though I go armed constantly in accordance with police regulations," he said. "It was only a few years ago, however, that one of our officers here in Americus—Lieutenant Homer Lee—was killed by a negro whom he had arrested upon a minor charge. Except for pistol advertising Lieutenant Lee might be alive today, and I am heartily in accord with the effort to suppress the use of this weapon."

Atlanta Police Were Busy During 1924

Police had an exceptionally busy year in 1924, with 1,732 more arrests than in the year preceding, according to records made public Thursday.

Total arrests for 1924 numbered 34,429, while those for 1923 totaled 32,697.

There were 52 murders in 1924 as compared to 35 recorded in 1923. Other comparative figures follow:

Drunks—1923, 7,003; 1924, 7,933

Exceeding speed limit—1923, 859; 1924, 2,465.

Occupants of a dive—1923, 1,291; 1924, 1,610

Idling and loitering—1923, 1,525; 1924, 2,385.

Reckless riding and driving—1923, 1,377; 1924, 2,028.

Suspicion—1923, 1,669; 1924, 5,266.

There also was a marked increase in automobile accidents, despite the fact that December records are incomplete and not included. They follow:

Automobile accidents—1923, 1,477; 1924, 1,640.

Injured by automobiles—1923, 323; 1924, 710.

Killed by automobiles—1923, 39; 1924, 21.

Street car accidents—1923, 89; 1924, 27.

Injured by street cars—1923, 32; 1924, 26.

Killed by street cars—1923, 8; 1924, 7.

Accidental shootings—1923, 4; 1924, 8.

GOVERNOR CLIFFORD WALKER

Lee Curry, white murderer, must die. So decrees Governor Clifford Walker, Georgia's brave Chief Executive.

In the face of maudlin sympathy, expressed from every section of the State, the Prison Board refused to recommend executive clemency for the Georgian who had been convicted five times, following appeals, for a cold-blooded murder. All of the forces of maudlin sympathy then turned to Governor Walker as their last resort. Bravely and fearlessly, he met the issue, and Lee Curry must pay the extreme penalty as fixed by the courts.

We commend Governor Walker for the blow given ma[u]dlin sympathy in Georgia. Respect for law and order, verdicts of juries, sentences of judges will happily react on the heels of Georgia's Chief Executive's decision to let the law take its course in the case of Lee Curry.

Mauldin sympathy, as expressed for Georgia murderers, is largely responsible for our inglorious, homicide record.

—C.C.

NEGRO CONVICTED IN JAMES SLAYING

Jury Returns Verdict After Only 25 Minutes' Deliberation—Appeal Is Set for Today.

Charles Walton, negro, Tuesday afternoon was sentenced to die June 26, in the electric chair for the murder on January 7 of Fred James. Judge W. F. H. Searcy, of the city court, sitting in Judge Howard's division passed sentence at 4:55 o'clock after the jury had debated the case only 25 minutes.

Appeal for a new trial will be filed this morning, attorneys for the condemned man announced.

Authenticity of an alleged confession by Walton was attacked Tuesday afternoon by defense attorneys.

James, who was manager of the top department of a local motor company plant here, was slain with an ax on the night of January 7, his mutilated body being found the next day in Lowe's alley. Robbery was supposed to be the motive.

The ax with which it is alleged the killing was done was exhibited in court. Walton was declared to have made a confession, but in his statement to the jury he repudiated the alleged confession, saying he can neither read nor write and did not know what was on the paper.

Lieutenant of Detectives Sturdivant claimed that the confession had been dictated by Walton and that the only changes in it dealt with grammatical errors. Emphasis was placed on the alleged changes by Reuben Garland and George Hutcheson, defense attorneys, who claimed that purely circumstantial evidence was being offered against their client.

Walton denied any connection with the murder in his statement and Attorney Garland, in a two-hour argument, said the alleged confession presented in court and admitted by Judge Searcy was no confession at all. He asserted that his client did not make it and that the detectives had prepared the document to suit themselves.

Sol Oliver and Grady Slaughter, negroes, indicted jointly with Walton on the charge of murdering James, will be placed on trial later. Oliver will be defended by John E. Echols.

Solicitor General John Boykin led the prosecution.

Crime-1925.

Georgia.

Some Aspects Of a Hanging

THERE are several things to think of in connection with the execution of Lee Currie, in Toombs County, a few days ago. Currie was hanged for a murder committed five years ago—an unconscionably long time to wait, if the man was to be hanged eventually.

Moreover, the execution was of a particularly revolting and gruesome sort; it being necessary to drop the man through the trap a second time, in order to effect his death.

Sentiment in Georgia is crystallizing more and more every day against capital punishment. It is, as has been repeatedly said, "a relic of barbarism;" an unworthy remnant of a theory constantly modified throughout the centuries and all but exploded in the civilized nations of today.

But if capital punishment is to remain the law and be imposed upon indicated occasions, then it does seem as if it ought to be possible to effect it within a shorter time than five years after the commission of the crime for which it is imposed.

Punishment for crime should be effected so soon as it may, following the commission of the crime; having due consideration for the rights of the prisoner at bar, of course, and proceeding always in order. But one may proceed in perfect order, without proceeding too hesitatingly, tardily and at unnecessary expense. If a man is to be hanged for a crime, there is no reason why he should be a charge and burden upon the taxpayers for five years previous to his execution.

In Chicago a few days ago, Lawrence Washington, a fairly well educated negro, just before he was hanged offered this comment on the prevention of crime: "When you've caught 'em, try 'em quick, and sentence 'em right away. Quick action will stop crime; and it's the only thing that will."

Robert E. Crowe, an eminent American lawyer of experience in the criminal courts, said the same thing earlier in the week in other words. "An old indictment," he declared, "is not worth much. For a crime of which trial has been delayed, it is hard to get witnesses, or a good jury, or anything but a perfunctory verdict. If we had judges enough to keep up with the criminal business, we should soon have less business."

The remark of the man who was on his way to hanging may seem the more dramatic—dramatic enough even to convince some whose lethargy is unstirred by the state's attorney's hard common sense.

"Try 'em quick!"

No criminal, of course, expects to be caught; he figures he can escape with the help of delay. Take away his hope of delay, and you deprive him of half of his criminal confidence.

THE EVER READY PISTOL

Last Sunday about midnight a colored man with a bundle, accompanied by a friend, while passing through the Terminal depot was accosted by a white man. This white man was a watchman on the yard engine, but showed no evidence of authority. At any rate without proper justification the colored man received a pistol wound that proved fatal. As usual the white man was acquitted. Just how long such tragedies will be permitted, is not known, but the dawning of the day when justice will reign supreme is hoped for very ardently.

Alleged Slayer Of DeKalb Cop Faces Jury Today

Decatur, Ga., June 8.—(Special.) Jack Bell, negro, will go on trial in DeKalb superior court Tuesday on charges of murder growing out of the fatal shooting on March 8, of DeKalb County Policeman S. D. Gentry. Bell is alleged to have shot the officer to death when the latter attempted to raid a liquor laden automobile being driven by Bell.

Bell admits riding in the car in which Gentry and Ed Holcomb, another member of the DeKalb county police, found 15 gallons of liquor, but denies the murder charge. Bell and another negro, Dick Harrell, are said to have been occupants of the car. When the officers closed on them, the negroes abandoned the machine, Gentry running after Bell, Holcomb states.

Holcomb is being held in jail on a charge of violation of the prohibition laws. He is expected to be a principal state witness at the trial.

Bell will be represented by Attorneys T. K. Burns and Leon S. Tomlinson. Judge Joan B. Hutcheson, of the Ston emountain circuit, will preside. Claude Smith, solicitor of the circuit, will prosecute.

14 NEGROES APPEAL THEIR SENTENCES

Claiming that they did not receive a "fair trial" and that they have violated no city, county nor state law, 14 Negroes, convicted June 3 in recorder's court and sentenced to serve 30 days each in the stockade, Friday filed writs of certiorari in Fulton superior court asking that tribunal to reverse the findings of the lower court.

The plaintiffs were orderlies at Grady hospital and were arrested when they are said to have refused to work, demanding more money for their services. Thirty-two Negroes were arraigned and sentenced, but only 14 are appealing.

The petitioners claim they were arrested and brought before Recorder A. W. Calloway in such a short time that they were denied the "right of counsel, and, therefore, not given a fair and impartial trial, as guaranteed by the Constitution."

The writs, which are directed against the city of Atlanta, allege that the petitioners congregated in the corridor to "keep an appointment made the night before by certain of their number to meet Steve R. Johnston, superintendent of the hospital, at that time to discuss proposed increase in pay," it is claimed.

Miss Bessie Feebeck, superintendent of nurses, is charged with having them arrested and as being the prosecutrix.

Writs were filed by Attorneys Walden & Hixson for Julius Winder, Jessie Cook, John Winder, Willie Norington, Grady Lyles, Phil Callahan, Paul Evans, Eddie Preston, Alphonso Dixon, Walter Harris, Norman Clark, Jimmie Gilmore, Willie Jones and Willie Mitchell.

'WHIPPING BOSS' FREED OF MURDER

Cross City, Fla., July 17.—(AP)—Thomas Walter Higginbotham, former Dixie county lumber camp "whipping boss," was freed by a jury on a second-degree murder charge in connection with the alleged slaying of Martin Tabert, North Dakota youth.

Higginbotham was found guilty as charged, but a supreme court decision in favor of a new trial was cited by counsel for the defendant.

Acquittal of Higginbotham ended one of the most sensational cases in the history of Florida courts, the ramifications of which resulted in the Florida legislature at its 1923 session abolishing the lash as a means of disciplining state and county convicts.

He was indicted in the spring of 1923 for first-degree murder on charge of causing the death of Martin Tabert, a North Dakota youth who had been arrested at Tallahassee for beating a ride on a freight train and sent to a Dixie county lumber camp. It was developed in an investigation of the case that an arrangement existed between the sheriff of Leon county whereby that officer received a monetary allowance for each prisoner sent to the lumber camp where Tabert died; that the company retained Higginbotham as "whipping boss," who used a heavy lash to whip convicts that lagged in their work. It was alleged that in dealing with Tabert the youth was so severely whipped by Higginbotham that it caused his death.

Word of Tabert's death finally reached his people in North Dakota, where the case was placed before the legislature of that state, resulting in that body adopting a resolution asking the state of Florida to investigate the whole situation.

A great part of the 1923 session of the Florida legislature was given over to consideration of the case in its various angles.

In the meantime Higginbotham was tried on a charge of first-degree murder, convicted of second degree and given 20 years in prison. Upon an appeal to the supreme court he was released on $10,000 bail and had been at liberty for two years awaiting the supreme court's action and later for a date to be set for his second trial, which ended today in his gaining his freedom.

He also gained his freedom a short time ago when he was indicted for murder, with several others, in connection with the death of Lewis Barker, a negro.

14 NEGROES APPEAL STOCKADE SENTENCES

Claiming that they did not receive a "fair trial" and that they have violated no city, county nor state law, 14 negroes, convicted June 3 in recorder's court and sentenced to serve 30 days each in the stockade, Friday filed writs of certiorari in Fulton superior court asking that tribunal to reverse the findings of the lower court.

The plaintiffs were orderlies at Grady hospital and were arrested when they are said to have refused to work, demanding more money for their services. Thirty-two negroes were arraigned and sentenced, but only 14 are appealing.

The petitioners claim they were arrested and brought before Recorder A. W. Calloway in such a short time that they were denied the "right of counsel, and, therefore, not given a fair and impartial trial, as guaranteed by the constitution."

The writs, which are directed against the city of Atlanta, allege that the petitioners congregated in the corridor to "keep an appointment made the night before by certain of their number to meet Steve R. Johnston, superintendent of the hospital, at that time to discuss proposed increase in pay, it is claimed.

Miss Bessie Feebeck, superintendent of nurses, is charged with having them arrested and as being the prosecutrix.

Writs were filed by Attorneys Walden & Hixson for Julius Winder, Jessie Cook, John Winder, Willie Norington, Grady Lyles, Phil Callahan, Paul Evans, Eddie Preston, Alphonso Dixon, Walter Harris, Norman Clark, Jimmie Gilmore, Willie Jones and Willie Mitchell.

"Rope Dodging" Cause of So Much Crime in Georgia

Editor Constitution: Statistics for 1924 show that there were almost as many crimes committed in Georgia as in all of Great Britain, which has a population not far from fifty million, while Georgia's population is around three million, less than half the size of London.

Why such a large percentage of crime in Georgia as compared with England and Scotland? Is it because the Georgians are so much more wicked and criminally bent than the British; or is it because the British are such an angelic folk that murder is contrary to their nature? Unquestionably neither assumption is true. The English and Scotch are just as prone to commit crime as the Georgians or any other sections of America.

The Savannah Press had an editorial in a recent issue entitled "Dodging the Rope." It went on to say that "rope dodging" had become a sort of fashion in Georgia of late

years; capital punishment was out of date and life sentences were generally modified to a few years. Herein lies the reason why so much more crime in Georgia than Great Britain. In England a murderer is given a speedy but legal trial and if found guilty is quickly and quietly disposed of. There is no such thing as a half dozen appeals, faulty jurors, technicalities, wholesale pardons and a score of other ways for the criminal to escape and perhaps later to commit a similar act.

Of course, it is well to take all precautions against hanging the wrong man; it is better to let ten guilty men go free than put to death one innocent man. But is all the "rope dodging" in Georgia done for the purpose of possibly saving the life of an innocent man? Or is it the result of gaining notoriety on the part of petty politicians or of gaining wealth on the part of unscrupulous attorneys? It is a question and much can be said on both sides.

There are two main theories of the purpose of law. First there is the one that the state must have justice and, therefore, must put to death or imprison an offender against society. The other theory states that society must punish an offender so as to make of him an example so that other citizens may not do likewise. In Great Britain both theories operate; in Georgia neither seems to operate. There in Georgia is like a ship without a pilot as regards the law enforcement against high crime. Not until the people awaken to the fact that law is for their own good can they hope to have less murder in Georgia.

EARL L. HECK.
1300 Tenth Ave., Columbus, Ga.

CRIME AND POLICEMEN

Every Social agency among us is interested in the national movement to minimize crime. Notwithstanding the fact that the Negro is generally handled by the white press as most criminally inclined, the greater tendency toward the commission of crime seems to be among white folks. Crime among white people is on the increase, and among the black people on the decrease. Those who believe in law and order have been constantyl using every means to instill into their people respect for law and order. They have been taught that they should do right for the sake of righteousness; they have been taught not to break the law because the iron hand of the law will be laid upon them; they have been taught to refrain from any breach of the law, because of the difficulty of a fair and impartial trial. And, because of this, and much more moral persuasion on the part of the press and pulpit, a growing respect for law and order is evidenced.

Atlanta Independent 9-10-27 Atlanta, Ga.

But among the reasons for decrease in crime among Negroes is a very important one found in many not only northern but southern cities, is one that comes through Negro policemen.

The general impression of the Negro is that policemen are his enemies; that they are especially looking for him whether he has committed a wrong or not; that policemen are itching for an opportunity to pounce upon, beat him into insensibility; that for any reason or no reason he may be arrested and severely dealt with. Negroes have had many reasons to feel that policemen were their bitter enemies and that courts were places of persecution rather than places of prosecution, for which reason officers of the law in pursuit of those charged with the commission of crime often find it next to impossible to get information from Negroes when they know where the culprit is hiding. It is very much out of the ordinary for Negroes to phone for policemen when they are witnessing the commission of crime in front of their very doors. But, many cities are finding the right solution for this problem by hiring Negro policemen.

The record proves that the Negro policemen have made good in the districts they patrol. Negroes have no fear of being arrested and assaulted without cause. They believe that these officers are fair, and if they do not commit crime they will not be arrested; but if they commit crime, they will be arrested; they do not look upon these law enforcement officers as men looking for somebody to beat up, but as peace officers for their protection as well as for the protection of others.

Negro policemen have gone a long ways towards teaching Negroes that the law is colorless as well as crime; that it is for people's protection as well as for their punishment, and it is not the purpose of law officers to break the law by brutally assaulting citizens with or without provocation, but they are interested in the peace and happiness of the people.

One-third of the population of the city of Atlanta is Negroes. There are thickly settled Negro sections, there are numbers of cases of unwarranted assault and arrest and invasions of houses by policemen, and a good many Negroes have not only allowed disrespect for law officers to come into their hearts, but hatred. This problem in Atlanta is far more serious than one might suppose, and it is high time the social agencies of the city work out a solution for it.

The Independent believes that the Negro sections ought to be policed by Negro officers; that colored officers will do far more to minimize crime among Negroes than white officers, so many of whom many Negroes hold in contempt, and regard them as their enemies. Negro policemen can best find information and evidence among their own group; being Negroes themselves, it is far more easy for them to get reliable, honest information. The stool pigeon and the pimp class who tipp off white officers are generally criminals themselves, simply trying to find favor with the white officers to be let off in their mischief. They will commit crime faster than those upon whom they squeal. But Negro policemen will be perfectly at home with their folks and will know how to run down crime and criminals wherever it is, as well as build up respect for law and order on their beats.

The "Florida Sentinel," very ably calls attention to this matter in the following words:

"Reports from various large cities which employ Negroes as policemen are to the effect that these officers of the law are making good. Leaving out such cities as Chicago, New York, etc., we find that Houston, Tex., Knoxville, Tenn., Denver, Colo., and even Tampa, Fla., and Sarasota, Fla., not any of them boasting a large Negro population, and certainly not fifty per cent Negro as Jacksonville does, have Negroes on their force. Record also shows that in these cities crime among Negroes and by Negroes is not as great as crime in Jacksonville.

In any city where there is a large Negro population, the services of Negroes as policemen and as plainclothes men are valuable in preventing crime and in running down criminals. Officials long ago in these discovered that they could not rely upon treacherous people such as "pimps," stool pigeons" and the like to give them information. As a rule these kind of people are the most unreliable, and they have an ulterior motive in gaining the friendship of police officers by telling on others. It has been pointed out that many of these people are criminal themselves, and while they are exposing the wrongdoing of some others they are hiding their own wrongdoings.

Jacksonville could profit very much if it selected a number of honest, upright and intelligent Negroes and made them policemen in the Negro section. They would soon find that respect for law and order among the criminal class of Negroes would increase, and that much of the petty crime which constitutes the biggest proportion of the crime committed by Negroes would be stopped.

When the American Woodmen met in Denver, Colo., a few weeks ago, their parade was led by Negro policemen and by Negro firemen. The officials declared that the records of these Negro policemen was such as to recommend them for just such a duty. Such a sight must have instilled in the hearts of those Negroes who witnessed it, greater respect for law and a greater patriotism for the city that thus recognized that he was part and parcel of it, and not a cringing "sneak" to be telling on others under cover.

Editor Constitution: I want to commend your editorial in The Constitution of this date, based upon the communication of J. W. Bates, in which he adds further testimony to the long and growing list of outrages [illegible] prohibition enforcement officers, state and county, upon innocent travelers upon the highways of Georgia. [illegible] common rights of motorists. Georgia is becoming acute and unbearable. It has almost reached the point in some sections where the [illegible] motorists prima facie evidence of guilt in the opinion of the officers.

The Constitution 8-12-27 Atlanta, Ga.

It is true that many of the traffic laws of the state, the towns and the cities are out of date, unreasonable and cannot possibly be obeyed. These should be changed and made up-to-date and then enforced with wisdom, justice, moderation and courtesy.

No doubt the "hard-boiled" policy of the police in Atlanta, presumably acting under orders of the police commission, as published in the press, to "make more arrests or to turn in their badges," is having considerable to do with the over-zealous conduct of some of the small town and country officers resulting in some of these outrages complained of.

I want to say, further, that this distressing and deplorable condition is adding much to the already bad reputation this state has in other sections of the country. It is certainly true that motorists from other sections of this state, and more particularly from other states, are shunning Atlanta and this vicinity. Only a few days ago the writer was in Montgomery, Ala., where, in a conversation with two parties of motorists from Mobile, who were on the way to western North Carolina, were trying to map out a route to their destination that would avoid Atlanta and this vicinity, as they had heard of the conditions that existed in this section and were anxious to avoid trouble in this part of Georgia. No doubt you are correct when you say that the entire prohibition enforcement machinery is "reeking with corruption," and it is probably true that not all the corruption and thuggery is confined to that particular outfit, the actions of which have made prohibition enforcement the greatest scandal this country has ever known, but it is apparent that other branches of enforcement as pertains to motor travel is about as bad, and if allowed to continue much longer without restraint will be equally as bad.

Atlanta and Georgia are suffering untold material injury from the actions of these ruffians clothed by the people with the livery of the law.

If the people allow these conditions to continue, if they allow their constables and policemen to continue arresting and holding up innocent men and women and children on trumped up or trivial charges and fining them for some fake violation of some unknown law, then all the people are equally as guilty as these brigands of the road who do the dirty work in person.

I am certainly glad to see The Constitution take up this matter in the interest of decent, orderly government and the rights of the motoring public, which at present means nearly all the people. I trust you will continue the fight until conditions are bettered, not only in Cobb and Forsyth, but in all other counties, including Fulton, where these outrages are occurring.

I want to endorse with the utmost approval Mr. Bates' closing sentence: "What we need is protection from men who are supposed to be officers of the law."

R. S. SLOAN,
119 Feld Avenue.
Decatur, August 10, 1927.

Crime—1925

Georgia.

LETTER FROM A NEGRO

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

As one of of your daily colored subscribers, I wish to say to the readers of your valuable journal what I think is the chief cause of so many dastardly and outrageous crimes that are soiling the pages of history in this good old Empire State of ours.

I have been reading the white newspapers for near 40 years, and have never read of so many dastardly and outrageous crimes as are committed nowadays by my race and your race in all the history of my reading in Georgia. I am forced to say there must be a loose screw somewhere, or the time has arrived for old satan to be let loose for a little season.

Whenever a crime is committed wilfully and without provocation on the part of the criminal, there are some men waiting to greet him with abundance of sympathy. Nine times out of every ten this is done, and the man or woman who has not committed a crime doesn't stand in fear of the law much, and when the devil gets the wholesale of them, they jump up and do the very same thing, expecting the sympathy of the citizens of this good old State and consequently crimes grow numerous in the State. There must be a check line put on the criminality of Georgia by the good white citizens and let it stay regardless of whom it pleases or displeases. If this is not done in the very near future Georgia will be classed as one of the most notorious outlaw States in the whole Union. I pray that the good white citizens of Georgia will come together in one solid phalanx and sign a decree whenever a man woman commits a wilful crime Georgia without any provocation whatever, and when the highest tribunal has passed upon it, they ought to hands off with sympathy. When this is done, I believe the crimes will decrease in Georgia. Not until then.

I want to quote you four crimes that have been committed in Georgia, two of them not long ago, and two recently. Three of these crimes need no sympathy from any white citizens of Georgia, except their relatives. First there are Mr. Gervis Bloodworth and Mr. Willie Jones who robbed and killed Mr. Underwood, the medicine salesman, near Butler, Ga., after he had given them a free ride in his automobile; and now there are several white citizens of Georgia endeavoring to help Col. Homer Beeland get our worthy Governor to commute their sentence to life imprisonment. If the good white citizens of Georgia would help the courts carry out their mandates in crimes of this kind, they would soon cease.

Second, here comes the crime of Mrs. Ida Hughes, who killed her mother-in-law some time ago in Atlanta, Ga., and whose life is now in the hands of our worthy Governor. Our Governor's letter-files are crowded out for space with sympathetic letters from several States of our Union, asking to commute Mrs. Hughes' sentence to life in prison.

I am a negro school teacher and will say that there is no negro living under the canopy of heaven has any more sympathy for a woman than I have, let her be white or black, but after the lower court and the highest tribunal has sifted the evidence and found that she did the killing wilfully, then the white citizens might hands off and let her abide by the consequences. When our good white people of the State see crimes just as they are and not color, soon crimes that are committed by the whites will cease to a great extent. I am sorry for Mrs. Hughes, though I am a negro, but in this case only the Governor might commute her sentence to life imprisonment.

Third, the negro at Rocky Ford, Ga., two weeks ago who committed incriminal assault upon the 14-year-old white school girl needed no sympathy, and did not get any. He was a worthless, idle negro, roaming the country like a wild hog with no stay place. He was caught, and his clothes were saturated with gas and lightwood knots were hauled and piled around him and set on fire, and he was burned alive. I don't approve the burning, but I do highly approve the killing.

Fourth, here comes the last but not the least among the dastardly and outrageous crimes committed in Georgia, one or two weeks ago by Sam Scarborough, of Tampa, Fla.; Mr. T. L. Coggeshall, of Clayton, Ill.; Mr. W. G. McClellan, of Brooklyn, N Y, who met the good and worthy Professor W C. Wright, County School Commissioner of Putnam County, and asked him to give them a free ride and he gladly did so in his automobile. They robbed and killed him, and only got $5. Do they need any sympathy from any one except relatives? Why, no.

The time is fast approaching when anyone is in his automobile will be scared to take up anyone along the public highway, sick or well, for fear he will be robbed or killed.

I have lived in Georgia all my life, among the good white people and have stayed in a negro's place as one who knows his place and will ever be found in his place as long as the sun rises in the east and sets behind the Western horizon.

I am forced to say that The Macon Daily Telegraph is the newsiest journal in Georgia and keeps you posted on everything. God bless such a managed paper.

T. W. CLARK. Enigma. Ga.

Warden Says Lash Is More Humane, But Ex-Governor Terms All Brutal

Spirited opinions as to the use of the lash and other means of punishment in Georgia prisons, aroused by the recent action of the Fulton County grand jury in recommending a return of the lash to succeed the stocks and dungeons now in vogue, were expressed Sunday in many quarters.

On one hand the warden and prisoners of an Atlanta convict camp expressed themselves in favor of the lash as a corrective rather than the use of the stocks and dungeons, declaring the strap far more humane. A former Governor of Oregon, Oswald West—a leader in making prisons into reformatories rather than abodes of punishment—took the stand that all methods of physical punishment are brutal and out of date and that men must be saved and not turned into brutes if the prison systems are to meet the demands of the times.

The two diverse opinions are given here:

A preference for the lash rather than the present method of punishment was expressed by officials at the big Fulton County Bellwood convict camp, where every day one or more of the 265 prisoners is placed in "stocks" or a "dungeon" for breaking a rule of the institution.

"I am glad the Fulton County grand jury made such a recommendation as that of bringing back the lash," commented Deputy Warden Jack Clark, "for the whip is the only proper and humane manner of correction that we can employ.

"The lash may be feared and it may cause physical pain at the time of administration, but that ends it and the prisoner goes on to his work. And never in Fulton County have I known of a convict being brutally beaten, beaten in such a manner that he would need medical attention.

LASH EASIER.

"But every time a man is freed from the stocks or dungeons he is forced to go into the hospital for a day's treatment."

The stocks at the prison are built inside of the little square building which is used also for the dungeons, or "boxes," as they are called at the prison. The stocks at the camp are no different from those pictured in early New England history. Cross bars, with slots for the ankles and cross bars with slots for the wrists. A prisoner is forced to sit flat on the floor with his feet stretched out and his ankles locked in the holes. His arms are stretched out from his body and the wrists clamped in the slots. He cannot move without physical pain and in due time his limbs begin to develop trying and nerve-tearing pains. He becomes a mental and physical wreck in less than 12 hours.

The dungeons, or "boxes," are even more torturing than the stocks, for the prisoner is forced to stand upright in a coffin-shaped box of heavy timbers. He has no light and he cannot sit down. He is fed on bread and water like the man in the stocks.

TO 36 HOURS.

Periods of punishment range from 1 to 36 hours, all depending upon how long it takes the prisoner to make up his mind to agree to orders.

"I hate more than anything else putting a man in stocks or a dungeon," said Warden Clark. "and I is only after everything else has failed to correct the prisoner that we resort to this punishment."

"I have no set rule for deciding whether a bad prisoner will be put in stocks or in a box," said the warden. "One is about as severe as the other. But I always try to take into consideration a man's physical condition. Standing in a dungeon for hours will sometimes make a man's legs swell and grow numb with pain. It would be cruel to put a man like this in a box. So he is placed in stocks.

A strong plea that prisons be made reformatories rather than places of punishment, where men can be saved and not turned into brutes, was made by Oswald West, former Governor of the State of Oregon, in discussing at length the proposed return of the lash in Fulton County to take the place of stocks and dungeons.

The former Governor is a visitor in Atlanta and he discussed the problems of prison reforms as suggested in special presentments made Friday by the Fulton County grand jury.

"It is all right to punish convicts," said Governor West, "but it must be done with common sense and humane methods and not by brutal tactics.

"Deny them ball games and let them look at the other fellow's plate of strawberry shortcake, if you wish, but there are limits beyond which it is necessary and dan-

elected I looked
around for a man in sympathy with
humanity and with executive ability
to put that sympathy into effect.
BOTH MADE BRUTES.
"Experience has proven beyond a
doubt that mediaeval punishment is
of no purpose," he said. "Men were
as turned by it into brutes, both those
and shot with water until soon
ded for mercy.
I got the notion, along with
other people, especially the
that a prison was supposed
for reformation and not to
ut punishment.
Governor of my state is the
e head of the prisons. As

suppos
and
and rolled
victs until they
sweated
and ached under its torture.
USED TORTURE BOOT.
Before Mr. West was made Gov.
ernor of Oregon that state used
what was known as the "Oregon
boot," a heavy iron shackle which is
fitted about the ankle and went as
high as the knee. It was applied on
gerous to go.
To all unruly and delinquent con-
They
he yelled for
children. Then I go
of other
women, that
create. In Ore
to be for r
out pu
them
mete
The Gover
strap was
to the hose. A man
absolute hel

who received it and the officials who administered it.

"I was brought up around horses and I was used to taming them," the Governor continued. "I used to lash them and beat them and run them. The best results came when I learned how to treat them kindly, to let them know that I was boss, but a good one.

"People are just like horses—perhaps not quite so faithful. In prisons best results come from a well-kept, well-fed, well-employed convict."

NOT THE LASH!

The recommendation of the Fulton grand jury that flogging be resumed in the convict camps of the county has naturally brought forth a storm of protests.

The use of the lash in disciplining prisoners in Georgia was discontinued in 1923, after a long and bitter fight, and after many evidences of inhumanity in its use had been brought to the attention of Governor Hardwick.

The Constitution at the time heartily sustained the crusade of the Prison Welfare committee, headed by Charles N. Walker, and is just as strongly of the opinion today as then that flogging should never be resorted to in the administration of punishment. There have been too many evidences of gross brutality in connection with the use of the lash—too many evidences of deaths were resulting from this mode of discipline. The case in Florida several months ago has not been forgotten.

Convicts must be disciplined, and there are undoubtedly many who will not be tractable to the rules and regulations of a camp. The privilege system will work in most instances, but in some it will not. But there is not a satisfactory excuse for excessive brutality and torture. We are not living in the dark ages, nor are we supposed to be governed in the spirit of the days of inquisition. The grand jury is probably correct in holding some of the present-day methods of discipline as brutal. This should not be. The prison is certainly not to be made inviting in the sense that it fails to properly punish, but also it is not to be administered inhumanly. The confinement is punishment. The restriction of privileges is a greater punishment. There are other punishments even more severe that do not even border upon brutality by torture and other inhuman methods.

The man-power of the convicts should be properly conserved so that they may be kept at hard labor, if physically able to labor. Torture does not conserve physical strength. It destroys or impairs it. The lash not only impairs manpower, but creates a dangerous spirit of prison rebellion, and breaks down morale.

Flogging should not be resumed. Inhumanity should not be indulged in. There are better ways that get better results without lessening the punishments justly imposed for crime.

OFFICERS KILL NEGRO AS HE TRIES TO ESCAPE

Statesboro, Ga., October 14.—(Special.)—Failure to stop when so ordered cost Fred Hendrix, negro, his life today. Officers Brannen and Kennedy were taking Hendrix to the chain gang and when they were about eight miles from town the negro jumped out and ran. The officers told him to halt or stop they would kill him and even shot in the air once or twice to frighten him, but it had no effect. They then aimed straight and Hendrix fell dead. He was sentenced to the gang for stealing cotton.

UNUSUAL METHODS OF PUNISHMENT FOUND IN CAMPS

Stocks, in Which Prisoners' Hands and Feet are Fastened, Used at Bryan County Convict Camp.

CAMPS IN CHATHAM ARE GIVEN PRAISE

Methods of Punishment Used To Supplant Lash Are Investigated by Legislative Committee.

BY RALPH T. JONES.
(Staff Correspondent.)

Savannah, Ga., December 14.—(Special.)—Extremes in Georgia convict camp conditions were viewed today by the special joint subcommittee of the senate and house penitentiary committees of the legislature. Four penal establishments in Chatham county, visited this morning, exemplified practically everything that the ideal prison should be, in food, in sleeping quarters, in sanitation and in general care of the prisoners.

Then, in the afternoon, the committee visited the convict camp of Bryan county, just on the outskirts of the town of Pembroke, and found a camp which, while the food was good, could only be ranked as poor on sanitation and equipment. Also, in the Bryan county camp an example of the stocks, which have been built by some wardens since abolition of the lash as a means of disciplining unruly convicts, was found.

It was stated, however, that only one convict had ever experienced confinement in these stocks and he only for 15 minutes. The stocks are there, however, and there can be no question but what a man fastened in them for any length of time would suffer agonies little short of torture.

They are a simple wooden contrivance. The prisoner is seated on the ground and his ankles are fixed in holes about six inches higher. Then his hands are drawn higher and fastened in holes about two feet higher than the ankle holes.

The most severe form of punishment inflicted on male prisoners in the Chatham county camps was found to be handcuffing to an upright post, with the hands behind the back, while the man sat or lay on the ground. The warden stated that they generally released a man as soon as he voiced contrition for his offense and promised better behavior in the future.

In the male felony camp the warden stated that when he came to look at one prisoner thus fastened, he found him comfortably asleep on the floor. The rooms where these punishments are inflicted are the stock rooms.

Women prisoners in Chatham county are punished for incorrigibility by solitary confinement. In the negro women's camp, this is accomplished in small cubby holes with wire covered openings above the door for ventilation. There is ample room for the woman to either stand up or lie on the floor as she pleases, but the only light is through the ventilated openings. The head of this camp stated that the longest time a woman had ever been kept in the cubby hole was three days, in the case of a particularly obstreperous negro woman.

Women's Camp Model.

The camp for white women in Chatham county is a model in every particular. The food, sleeping quarters and general equipment and cleanliness surpass that in most private homes. It was impossible to find anything soiled or out of place. In fact, no hospital could be better furnished or more beautifully kept than this prison. There is a comfortable sitting room for the inmates and the sleeping quarters are perfection itself.

Discipline is enforced here by making the unruly woman occupy a room alone. These rooms, however, have comfortable beds, hot and cold running water, lights and other conveniences. In fact, as one member of the committee expressed it, "they call it punishment here to give a woman the kind of private room she would pay extra to get in a hospital."

The white women are also assigned to work according to their behavior, more preferring housework to working in the laundry, for instance.

In the case of both white and colored prisoners, the woman in solitary confinement is on a bread and water diet.

In Bryan county, while the food was excellent, the sanitation was bad, the sleeping quarters dark, dirty and odorous. In this camp there were about two dozen prisoners, two white men, one negro woman and the balance negro men. The majority were felony cases sent there from the state farm.

Bryan county male negro prisoners sleep in the old-fashionable steel portable convict cages, while the white men sleep, one in a storeroom and one in a tent. The negro woman sleeps in another tent.

Food Plentiful.

The food, everywhere, was splendid. Cornbread, biscuits, meat, turnip greens, beans and rice furnished the staples, with coffee to drink. In the Chatham county white women's camp, the inmates get as much milk as they wish to drink and a wide variety of tempting foods. Chicken is served twice a week and the larder shelves are heavy with a display of canned fruits and vegetables that would be the envy of any housewife.

The special committee, which is making this trip around some of the camps, will continue its work for the balance of this week. The camps to be visited will not be made public in advance, it being desired to visit each one unexpectedly, as was done today.

The committee is composed of Senator E. D. Cole, of Cartersville, chairman of the senate penitentiary committee; Representative Emmett M. Williams, of Walton county, chairman of the house penitentiary committee, and Representatives W. D. Trippe, of Bartow, and S. H. Griffith of Oconee.

CONVICT CONTROL.

According to Brunswick dispatches from The Constitution's staff correspondent, Mr. Jones, the special investigating committee of the two penitentiary committees of the assembly, will recommend complete control of convict camps by the state, thus abolishing the present checker-board, crazy-quilt system of having county camps without proper uniformity methods, made compulsory by law.

That is a good conclusion. It will stabilize the control, the rules of discipline, the penalties for infractions, the humane care of the sick, and by conserving strength and demeanor along systematic lines, add increasingly to the man-power capacity of each camp. It is, after all, a matter of economies. The conservation of man-power is just as much an economic problem as the stopping of waste, or the conservation of the natural resources.

It is unthinkable in this connection to find in the same dispatch that the committee will recommend "restoration of the lash."

If the state is to assume control of all convicts, and maintain all camps under one code of rules, it is folly to say a standardized schedule of humane but effective penalties can not also be provided without resorting again[illegible]ng, or other corporal punishment.

No law, however rigid in [illegible]strictions, can prevent the pr[illegible]e of the strap from being ruthle[illegible] and inhumanely abused. No provisos around such a law can justify it in public opinion. The strap on the naked back is a relic of barbarism, and its restoration, after having taken the advanced step of abolition, would mean a set-back for Georgia, in popular opinion, that it would not live over in a generation.

It is unnecessary. Because a few brutal wardens have resorted to methods of punishment more revolting than the strap does not justify the strap. In a great majority of the county camps, even with a standardized code for their control and regulation—as is now proposed—humane wardens have found humane methods of punishment without the strap. In all such cases the morale has been kept high, and the working efficiency of the convicts maintained. In such camps the best of service is the result of humane treatment, cleanliness, sanitation, health, etc.

It is a gross fallacy to suppose that a convict, because he has violated a law, must be brutally treated in order to make him pay his debt to society, or to make him more useful to the state.

The confinement, the disgrace, the surrender of liberty, all contribute the adjustments to society. The warden who administers brutality deserves to be in the convict's place.

The people of Georgia will never consent to the legalization of the lash again, and its agitation by so cluding privileges, etc., that will representative a group as a legislative committee can serve no other maintain an efficient morale, good order, strength conservation, and at the same time measure four-square to the common laws of humanity.

On the other hand, the people will heartily support rigid state control of the convict camps, and a uniform system of regulations, in-

who received it and the officials who administered it.

"I was brought up around horses and I was used to taming them," the Governor continued. "I used to lash them and beat them and run them. The best results came when I learned how to treat them kindly, to let them know that I was boss, but a good one.

"People are just like horses—perhaps not quite so faithful. In prisons best results come from a well-kept, well-fed, well-employed convict."

NOT THE LASH!

The recommendation of the Fulton grand jury that flogging be resumed in the convict camps of the county has naturally brought forth a storm of protests.

The use of the lash in disciplining prisoners in Georgia was discontinued in 1923, after a long and bitter fight, and after many evidences of inhumanity in its use had been brought to the attention of Governor Hardwick.

The Constitution at the time heartily sustained the crusade of the Prison Welfare committee, headed by Charles N. Walker, and is just as strongly of the opinion today as then that flogging should never be resorted to in the administration of punishment. There have been too many evidences of gross brutality in connection with the use of the lash—too many evidences of deaths were resulting from this mode of discipline. The case in Florida several months ago has not been forgotten.

Convicts must be disciplined, and there are undoubtedly many who will not be tractable to the rules and regulations of a camp. The privilege system will work in most instances, but in some it will not. But there is not a satisfactory excuse for excessive brutality and torture. We are not living in the dark ages, nor are we supposed to be governed in the spirit of the days of inquisition. The grand jury is probably correct in holding some of the present-day methods of discipline as brutal. This should not be. The prison is certainly not to be made inviting in the sense that it fails to properly punish, but also it is not to be administered inhumanly. The confinement is punishment. The restriction of privileges is a greater punishment. There are other punishments even more severe that do not even border upon brutality by torture and other inhuman methods.

The man-power of the convicts should be properly conserved so that they may be kept at hard labor, if physically able to labor. Torture does not conserve physical strength. It destroys or impairs it. The lash not only impairs man-power, but creates a dangerous spirit of prison rebellion, and breaks down morale.

Flogging should not be resumed. Inhumanity should not be indulged in. There are better ways that get better results without lessening the punishments justly imposed for crime.

OFFICERS KILL NEGRO AS HE TRIES TO ESCAPE

Statesboro, Ga., October 14.—(Special.)—Failure to stop when so ordered cost Fred Hendrix, negro, his life today. Deputy Officers Brannen and Kennedy were taking Hendrix to the chain gang when they were about eight miles from town the negro jumped out and ran. The officers told him if he did not stop they would kill him and even shot in the air once or twice to frighten him, but it had no effect. They then aimed straight and Hendrix fell dead. He was sentenced to the gang for stealing cotton.

UNUSUAL METHODS OF PUNISHMENT FOUND IN CAMPS

Stocks, in Which Prisoners' Hands and Feet are Fastened, Used at Bryan County Convict Camp.

CAMPS IN CHATHAM ARE GIVEN PRAISE

Methods of Punishment Used To Supplant Lash Are Investigated by Legislative Committee.

BY RALPH T. JONES.
(Staff Correspondent.)

Savannah, Ga., December 14.—(Special.)—Extremes in Georgia convict camp conditions were viewed today by the special joint subcommittee of the senate and house penitentiary committees of the legislature. Four penal establishments in Chatham county, visited this morning, exemplified practically everything that the ideal prison should be, in food, in sleeping quarters, in sanitation and in general care of the prisoners.

Then, in the afternoon, the committee visited the convict camp of Bryan county, just on the outskirts of the town of Pembroke, and found a camp which, while the food was good, could only be ranked as poor on sanitation and equipment. Also, in the Bryan county camp an example of the stocks, which have been built by some wardens since abolition of the lash as a means of disciplining unruly convicts, was found.

It was stated, however, that only one convict had ever experienced confinement in these stocks and he only for 15 minutes. The stocks are there, however, and there can be no question but what a man fastened in them for any length of time would suffer agonies little short of torture.

They are a simple wooden contrivance. The prisoner is seated on the ground and his ankles are fixed in holes about six inches higher. Then his hands are drawn higher and fastened in holes about two feet higher than the ankle holes.

The most severe form of punishment inflicted on male prisoners in the Chatham county camps was found to be handcuffing to an upright post, with the hands behind the back, while the man sat or lay on the ground. The warden stated that they generally released a man as soon as he voiced contrition for his offense and promised better behavior in the future.

In the male felony camp the warden stated that when he came to look at one prisoner thus fastened, he found him comfortably asleep on the floor. The rooms where these punishments are inflicted are the stock rooms.

Women prisoners in Chatham county are punished for incorrigibility by solitary confinement. In the negro women's camp, this is accomplished in small cubby holes with wire covered openings above the door for ventilation. There is ample room for the woman to either stand up or lie on the floor as she pleases, but the only light is through the ventilated openings. The head of this camp stated that the longest time a woman had ever been kept in the cubby hole was three days, in the case of a particularly obstreperous negro woman.

Women's Camp Model.

The camp for white women in Chatham county is a model in every particular. The food, sleeping quarters and general equipment and cleanliness surpass that in most private homes. It was impossible to find anything soiled or out of place. In fact, no hospital could be better furnished or more beautifully kept than this prison. There is a comfortable sitting room for the inmates and the sleeping quarters are perfection itself.

Discipline is enforced here by making the unruly woman occupy a room alone. These rooms, however, have comfortable beds, hot and cold running water, lights and other conveniences. In fact, as one member of the committee expressed it, "they call it punishment here to give a woman the kind of private room she would pay extra to get in a hospital."

The white women are also assigned to work according to their behavior, more preferring housework to working in the laundry, for instance.

In the case of both white and colored prisoners, the woman in solitary confinement is on a bread and water diet.

In Bryan county, while the food was excellent, the sanitation was bad, the sleeping quarters dark, dirty and odorous. In this camp there were about two dozen prisoners, two white men, one negro woman and the balance negro men. The majority were felony cases sent there from the state farm.

Bryan county male negro prisoners sleep in the old-fashionable steel portable convict cages, while the white men sleep, one in a storeroom and one in a tent. The negro woman sleeps in another tent.

Food Plentiful.

The food, everywhere, was splendid. Cornbread, biscuits, meat, turnip greens, beans and rice furnished the staples, with coffee to drink. In the Chatham county white women's camp, the inmates get as much milk as they wish to drink and a wide variety of tempting foods. Chicken is served twice a week and the larder shelves are heavy with a display of canned fruits and vegetables that would be the envy of any housewife.

The special committee, which is making this trip around some of the camps, will continue its work for the balance of this week. The camps to be visited will not be made public in advance, it being desired to visit each one unexpectedly, as was done today.

The committee is composed of Senator E. D. Cole, of Cartersville, chairman of the senate penitentiary committee; Representative Emmett M. Williams, of Walton county, chairman of the house penitentiary committee, and Representatives W. D. Trippe, of Bartow, and S. H. Griffith of Oconee.

CONVICT CONTROL.

According to Brunswick dispatches from The Constitution's staff correspondent, Mr. Jones, the special investigating committee of the two penitentiary committees of the assembly, will recommend complete control of convict camps by the state, thus abolishing the present checker-board, crazy-quilt system of having camps operated without proper uniformity methods, made compulsory by law.

That is a good conclusion. It will stabilize the control, the rules of discipline, the penalties for infractions, the humane care of the sick, and by conserving strength and demeanor along systematic lines, add increasingly to the man-power capacity of each camp. It is, after all, a matter of economies. The conservation of man-power is just as much an economic problem as the stopping of waste, or the conservation of the natural resources.

It is unthinkable in this connection to find in the same dispatch that the committee will recommend "restoration of the lash."

If the state is to assume control of all convicts, and maintain all camps under one code of rules, it is folly to say a standardized schedule of humane but effective penalties can not also be provided without resorting again[illegible]ng, or other corporal punishment.

No law, however rigid in its restrictions, can prevent the proper use of the strap from being ruthlessly and inhumanely abused. No provisos around such a law can justify it in public opinion. The strap on the naked back is a relic of barbarism, and its restoration, after having taken the advanced step of abolition, would mean a set-back for Georgia, in popular opinion, that it would not live over in a generation.

It is unnecessary. Because a few brutal wardens have resorted to methods of punishment more revolting than the strap does not justify the strap. In a great majority of the county camps, even with a standardized code for their control and regulation—as is now proposed—humane wardens have found humane methods of punishment without the strap. In all such cases the morale has been kept high, and the working efficiency of the convicts maintained. In such camps the best of service is the result of humane treatment, cleanliness, sanitation, health, etc.

It is a gross fallacy to suppose that a convict, because he has violated a law, must be brutally treated in order to make him pay his debt to society, or to make him more useful to the state.

The confinement, the disgrace, the surrender of liberty, all contribute the adjustments to society. The warden who administers brutality deserves to be in the convict's place.

The people of Georgia will never consent to the legalization of the lash again, and its agitation by so eluding privileges, etc., that will representative a group as a legislamaintain an efficient morale, good tive committee can serve no other order, strength conservation, and at than ill purposes. the same time measure four-square

On the other hand, the people to the common laws of humanity. will heartily support rigid state control of the convict camps, and a uniform system of regulations, in-

Crime - 1925.

Iowa.

DES MOINES IA REGISTER
JUN 9 1925

A SPEEDY TRIAL.

Governor Ferguson has done well to grant reprieves, although for only five days, to two Negroes sentenced to death in Texas recently. The judge who pronounced sentence fixed the earliest day possible, and did not retract when it was shown that it would be Sunday. The men were found guilty and condemned May, 28—the thirty days which is the shortest time allowed in Texas made the date of the execution June 28. The judge announced that Sunday could be devoted to no better purpose, and if no one else could be found to operate the electric chair on that day he would volunteer.

The remarks of the court on this occasion were so heated, his acts so ill-considered, there is room for fair doubt whether the accused men received a fair trial.

In order to avoid a lynching, which was threatened, the officials promised the mob that the men would be tried speedily. So juries were hastily summoned—no doubt from men who had been in the mob—and both men were arraigned, tried, found guilty, and sentenced in less than two hours. It ordinarily requires this much time to select the jury in a civil case, and it is seldom a jury in the mildest criminal case is chosen in twice the time. Probably never before has a jury in a capital case been summoned and examined and accepted in less than half a day and the trial ordinarily consumes several days.

The procedure was so abrupt, so hasty, it must suggest that judge and jury were under the compulsion of the mob threat, and the trial was little more than a mob action. The United States supreme court not long ago set aside the convictions of some Negroes in Arkansas because the trial was constantly under the domination of an armed mob. Governor Ferguson would do well to read the opinion of the court in that case.

Sometimes these people who would override all the rights of accused persons in our criminal procedure quote the constitutions of the various states, which guarantee to any person "a speedy trial." The Texas judge said something about that in his defense of his trial of these two men. But a "speedy" trial does not mean a hasty one. It means only that there shall not be long delays, that men shall not lie in dungeons for years without being brought to court, or after their witnesses and evidence have died or disappeared. This provision grows out of our experience with tyrants, as nearly all of our legal safeguards do.

The British early in their experience adopted the writ of "jail delivery." By this writ, which issued to the jailers twice a year, every prisoner was brought before the court, and either tried or set free. The speedy trial is for the protection of the prisoner, to assure him ample opportunity to present his defense. A hasty trial does not give him that opportunity.

It is not enough in those communities where violence is feared to appease the mob by giving accused persons a trial in the courts. The trial must be uninfluenced by mob feeling, it must be a sober, well considered proceeding. Any other sort does not cope with what we call "crime waves." It merely makes a mockery of justice and a sham of law.

Crime—1925. Illinois.

CRIME RAMPANT, SETS NEW CHICAGO RECORD

Twelve Murders Since Jan. 1 and 94 Robberies.

(By Chicago Tribune-The Commercial Appeal Leased Wire.)

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Crime, so rampant in Chicago during 1924, is starting off to establish new records during 1925. So far this year there have been 12 murders, a trifle short of one a day; 94 robberies, which do not include small affairs or street stickups; 10 assaults upon women and girls, and 218 thefts of automobiles. Assuming the average value of each car stolen to be $1,000, this item alone represents a startling figure.

The flouting of prohibition laws, which invariably leads to disregard for all other laws, and the promiscuous carrying of deadly weapons are blamed for the increase in the murder rate. Automobile thefts are engineered by highly organized gangs, who own garages and resorts for speedy changing of numbers and the physical appearance of cars, which, for the most part, are shipped to some distant city and resold, cars stolen in other cities being brought here for sale.

The crime syndicate has grown so bold that drastic measures are taken to repress anyone who opposes its operations. For the second time the home of Rev. Elmer Williams, a member of the special coroner's jury that is trying to fix the murder of Dion O'Banion, former gangster leader, was bombed by members of the underworld.

Rev. Mr. Williams, who is a fearless investigator, said today he expected to be shot at from ambush or waylaid and beaten by gangsters, but this would not deter him. The bombing of his home in an effort to kill his wife and children was a warning that the gangsters would stop at nothing to silence him.

The coroner's jury has been vainly trying to get before it Carmen Vacco, on the city payroll as a sealer, and James Genna, of a family of notorious gunmen. Rev. Mr. Williams secured subpoenas for both of them in the face of warnings by a well known gunman, who told him that unless he let the matter drop he and his family would be slain.

HALF CHICAGO'S KILLERS FOUND IN TWO GROUPS

Survey Shows Three Murder Areas.

BY ARTHUR EVANS.

Criminologists have a fertile field for study in Chicago's record of 112 deaths by violence during the first three months of 1925. Revised police figures yesterday for the first quarter of the year showed forty-nine murders, thirty-four cases of manslaughter and twenty-nine cases of what coroner's juries deemed justifiable homicides.

Ninety days: a total of 112 killings.

It is two and a half times the killings for the first three months of 1920, when forty-four were recorded. As compared with five years ago it is 150 per cent higher. It is an increase of 23 per cent over the first ninety days of last year. And the figures do not include 155 persons killed by automobiles.

Three Murder Areas.

An analysis of the returns shows among other interesting phases the following:

1. The existence of three well defined murder areas—one for each side of the city. In these more than 80 per cent of the killings occur.

2. Of the 112 killed, fifty-nine were Italians or Negroes. Thus racial or foreign-born groups, making up less than 7 per cent of Chicago's population, have 53 per cent of the victims.

3. A marked increase in crimes of unusual brutality, ascribed most largely to the drinking of moonshine. Many of these killings are the outcome of domestic quarrels and street rows.

Three Areas Defined.

When the violent deaths for the last two years or so are marked off on the map they show three great murder spots in Chicago. Roughly they are outlined as follows:

South side—Between 22d and 43d streets, and from Wells street to the lake. This is the most congested Negro section.

West side—Between Madison and 16th streets, from the river west to Ashland avenue.

North side—Between Division and Erie streets, from Dearborn street west to the river. This embraces the black hand murder district.

In these three areas in a period of two years occurred four out of every five killings in Chicago.

Fifteen Victims Italians.

The boundaries, of course, are only approximate, but they embrace three sections which are recognized by the police as the great murder regions.

Analysis of the forty-nine murders in the first ninety days of 1925 shows fifteen of the victims were Italians and eleven were Negroes—more than half the total. In the thirty-four manslaughter cases no less than seventeen were Negro and one was Italian. In the twenty-nine cases judged to be justifiable and excusable by coroner's juries, eleven had Negro victims, and four Italian.

To summarize, out of 112 violent deaths, thirty-nine were of Negroes. About 35 per cent of the total killings occurred among a racial group making up less than 5 per cent of the city's population.

Of the 112 victims, twenty were Italians. About 18 per cent of the total killings occurred in foreign born groups that constitutes about 2 per cent of the population.

53 Per Cent in Two Groups.

Together the Negro and Italian victims totaled 59. Thus about 53 per cent of the violent deaths occurred in two groups, constituting about 7 per cent of the population.

When the cases are sifted through for the causes or motives for the killings they show:

Out of the 49 murders—cases so listed by the police where a premeditated crime is evident—ten were Black Hand killings and two were results of a tong war. Jealousy was the reason ascribed in eight murders, domestic difficulties in seven, revenge in three, rape in one.

Eight Holdup Victims.

Eight of those murdered were the victims of holdup men or robbers or gangs of hooligans.

In the manslaughter cases—34 in all—in which are classed killings on the spur of the moment, by stray bullets, etc., no less than twenty-three were the result of quarrels of one sort or another—seven of them were domestic. Some assert that nearly one-half of these deaths came through moonshine.

Stray bullets claimed four victims.

One illuminating fact stands out in an analysis of the twenty-nine cases adjudged justifiable at the inquests and that is this:

Twelve of these killings were by the police. In nearly every instance they were gunmen or holdups or burglars caught in the act.

But the thing to do is to find out how to diminish the murders, assaults, holdups and automobile killings in this city. If Mr. Dever can do it, we will gladly take off our hats to him. Thus far he has not only failed to do it, but under his administration the crime situation has become steadily worse, until now it is terrible and hideous. The figures show it. He can't alter them by calling names.

We know that the mayor does not want advice and seldom takes it. Nevertheless, we respectfully recommend this course to him:

Let him reorganize the police force. The present organization has become demoralized. Let him put in a new broom to sweep clean. Let him hold the new broom responsible for results against crime; and not meddle with his new chief in the conduct of his department as much as he has meddled with his old one.

JIM CROW IN JAIL

When a man is arrested for committing a crime in Chicago it has become customary for his punishment to be determined more by the color of his skin than by the crime he commits. Recently a report was brought in to the Defender about a boy being arrested for fighting in a restaurant. In the course of chastisement meted out to him by police in the county jail, the youth was stripped of his clothing and sent to a place on top of the jail, known to prisoners as "The Island." A white boy, also charged with disturbing the peace in the jail, was sent to the island for a few hours and removed, while the other lad was left there two days.

A few hours after being removed to his Jim Crow cell, the boy died. A cursory inquest was held by authorities and the case dismissed.

Other incidents of like nature are frequent. Even in jail there is a strict line drawn between prisoners. White criminals are allowed to believe themselves better than others whose crimes, in many cases, are of less magnitude than theirs. Is there any wonder that justice goes astray when one's color may determine the extent of his crime? Cook county authorities are asked to take steps to remedy this situation if society is to derive any real benefit from penal institutions she maintains.

CRIME AND DEVER.

Last Monday night Mayor Dever introduced Fred B. Smith, the prohibition leader, to the Better Government league, a dry political organization. The mayor said that those newspapers which criticized his administration for its police methods were ridiculous and absurd. He said that the crime situation in Chicago was no worse than in New York or other places. This is untrue.

Chicago with 3,000,000 people has had 126 killings with guns so far this year, and 208 killings with automobiles. New York with 6,000,000 people has had 85 killings with guns and 199 with automobiles. That is, Chicago with HALF the population has had 40% more killings with guns and 4% more killings with automobiles than New York has had so far this year. In other words, the crime situation in Chicago is twice as bad as it is in New York. In other words, the mayor's comment was untrue.

One of Mr. Dever's failings is the ease with which he loses his temper. Then he makes statements that are quite exaggerated.

FINDS A PECULIAR SITUATION AS TO CERTAIN PUNSHMENT FOR NEGROES

Last Three Hanged in Cook County Were Negroes—Explanation Due

The Chicago Bee representative interviewed the Chicago Crime Commissioner at 21 N. LaSalle street, in order to secure a statistical report on the crimes committed in Cook County since 1921. The interview was prompted by the obvious tendency of colored criminals to pay more dearly for their offenses than criminals of any other caste.

From January, 1921 to November 1st, 1924, a review of statistics proved that 581 murders out of 812 were white, leaving 231 colored. During that period of time 991 individuals had their lives unlawfully taken among whom were 234 colored. There were 105 assailants not apprehended and 131 held to the grand jury but not indicted.

Upon action of the criminal court, 131 were declared not guilty, 41 sentenced to life; 58 pronounced guilty of manslaughter; 9 guilty but insane and 57 given prison sentences varying from 1 to 35 years.

The prime motives for murders were quarrels, robberies, domestic rows and racial clashes. The most popular methods of assault were by gun and knife.

Chance for Execution

Computed from the basis of actual murderers, the chance for execution is one in 175. After indictment the murderer has one chance in 95 to escape the gallows. During the period of four years prevously designated, only eight convicted murderers were tried and hanged although nineteen were sentenced to death.

Unfair Revelation

The most unpleasant revelation that faces members of our particular racial group lies in the fact that although only 231 out of 812 assailants were Negroes, the last three criminals executed were colored men. Since 1921, only eight murderers have been hanged.

Injustice Reacts

That members of the Caucasian race do not seem to be particularly benfited by their laxity in administering justice in murder cases is evidenced in the increasing number of crimes in the last few years which have driven officials to adopt drastic measures to prevent crime. The fact is that white criminals, realizing and appreciating his 175 to one chance for exoneration, short imprisonment, and early pardon, has been urged into committing crimes with increasing fervor. Prejudice isn't so popular when it "bounces back." Regardless of the fact that Negro men are being compelled to stand as examples when the trap is sprung, this natural tendency on the part of a criminal to do all he can get away with will continue to prove retroactive at the cost of human lives. In truth hanging a colored criminal stands as no example before a white criminal who knows the prejudice of justice. In the end the courts will realize that to jim crow justice will only tend to jim crow the crimes—and slowly but surely they are waking up.

Hang Negro Tomorrow for Killing Policeman

Willie Sams, colored badman, under sentence to hang tomorrow for killing Policeman Cornelius Broderick, will be placed in the death cell today. His attorney O. M. Wilkerson has petitioned Gov. Small to stay the execution to give him time to take the case before the supreme court. Margaret Broderick, widow of the slain policeman, and two brothers, asked Assistant State's Attorney William McSwiggin, who prosecuted Sams, for permission to witness the hanging. The request was denied.

Editorial of the Day

MURDER IN CHICAGO.

[Portland Oregonian.]

With a record of 196 murders for the first six months of the current year, Chicago is wondering—though not for the first time—what is the matter. The number is nearly eight times that of London, a much larger city, in an entire year. It includes the killing of five policemen in two weeks.

In asking, "Why must Chicago outdo the world in killing?" THE TRIBUNE of that city but propounds a question that it is easier to answer academically than practically. The story is told by the fact that in the period in which 196 were lawlessly slain, only two were lawfully executed. At the risk of dwelling tediously on the obvious, it may be suggested that the problem ought not to be dismissed as unsolvable until the remedy of law enforcement has been tried. With a little more than eighty-nine chances out of every ninety that a killer will escape punishment, it cannot be said that the deterrent effect of swift and condign penalties has had a fair trial.

How to go about procuring the application of the already known and probably sovereign cure is another matter. It is not Chicago alone that must find a way out, but the rest of the United States, from which the western metropolis differs only in degree but not in kind. Average Americans serve on juries which acquit murderers, and average Americans applaud verdicts of acquittal. What is needed is a method of opening the eyes of the average American to the truth that he is the chief contributing cause of a situation that is rapidly growing worse.

DEAD OR ALIVE, PREFERABLY DEAD.

America once more is on the frontier. On the frontier there is no law. Instead there are notices of rewards for bandits, dead or alive, preferably dead, and the law is a primitive thing left to vigilantes and six shooters. America has come to this pass.

The six bandits who shot Policeman Patrick O'Shea and escaped with $57,760 belonging to the Drovers' National bank are worth $2,000 apiece to the person or persons who capture them alive. They are worth $3,500 apiece to the person or persons who can deliver them dead.

That is head hunting in earnest.

Wilmette business men are planning to put up a standing reward for each dead bandit, no matter by whom killed, whether by policeman or citizen. The Chicago and Cook County Bankers' association offers a reward of $2,500 for each dead bandit, with the remark that it is a cold blooded business to place a price on human life, but that the necessity of protecting the lives of their members, their employés, their patrons, and the money intrusted to them demands it. The state association approved of this action by the county organization.

The state association, following plans carried out in Iowa, has distributed thousands of rifles and rounds of ammunition to deputized citizens in every Illinois town where there is a bank. The Iowa example, which has cut bank robbery to a minimum, has armed 3,876 vigilantes in 781 towns and has posted $110,000 in rewards.

Cass county, Ill., bankers have raised the reward for a dead bandit from $1,000 to $2,000. The Illinois legislature is expected to pass a bill setting aside $50,000 to be paid out in bounty, $1,000 each time a bandit is killed. The Chicago Jewelers' association has a standing offer of $2,000 apiece for bandits slain robbing a jewelry store.

Illinois is not alone in its return to the methods of the vigilance committee. In Milwaukee the Clearing House association offers $2,500 for a dead bandit and only $1,000 for one taken alive. Beloit, Wis., offers $1,000 for a bandit killed robbing a bank. Porter county, Ind., bankers post a similar bounty, as do those in St. Joseph county.

The ordinary course of law enforcement has broken down. America, at least in the middle west, has no more law than did the frontier and has been driven to frontier methods.

WHITE WOMAN ADMITS GUILT

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 20.—(By The Associated Negro Press)—Mrs. Ruth Irene Davis, white, cashier in an exclusive restaurant, was placed on probation for a year in municipal court here, when she confessed that she not a colored bandit, had stolen $87 from the cash register. She claimed that she took the money to support her 5-year-old daughter.

Illinois.

Crime - 1925.

POLICE DISCRIMINATIONS FANNING HATREDS INTO EMOTIONAL VOLCANOES

Writer Exposes Lax Police Methods in Dealing With Vital Issues Involving the Racial Differences In the West Side's "Melting Pot"

Over in that quaint old area known as the Ghetto, has come within recent years thousands of blacks, who flee from other sections of the city seeking relief from exorbitant rents. They settle for the most part in that district bounded on the north by Polk street, on the east by the canal, on the south by the Santa Fe railroad and on the west by Ashland avenue.

This district is sometimes called the "Melting Pot." And this appellation is not a misnomer, for thirty-two races, different in habit, manners, customs and religion, seek to assimilate the folkways and modes of the American people. In this dilapidated section, crime runs rampant. Squalor, misery and disease abound. The streets and alleys are cluttered with filth, while the pungent air, charged with the odors of decaying garbage and putrifying animals, out-rival the foul vapors of dungeons. A swarm of flies preying upon germ breeding refuse infest the screenless houses. Commercialized vice is protected here and the gunman roams at will.

Smouldering Hatreds

The fires of racial hatred, smouldering since the brutal lynching of William Bell, are being slowly fanned into flame by the constant attack of the Maxwell street police upon the gullible and unsuspecting black folk in the district.

Some time ago Roy Langdon, 1244 Jefferson street, was set upon by a mob of gunmen headed by a police officer, and only escaped by breaking into the home of a neighbor and climbing to the roof of a building. Recently a carload of badmen invaded the pool room of Harry Crawford located at the corner of 14th street and Miller avenue and seized a colored youth, beat him over the head with revolvers, and terrorized other inmates of the place. A warrant was sworn out for one Bummy Golstein who has not yet been apprehended by the police. It is said, however, that Golstein may be seen any day on the streets.

The three year old son of L. J. Young, 1320 Hasting street, was the victim of an enraged Jewish woman who kicked a bucket of hot tar upon the helpless child. A warrant was issued for her arrest and it was not until extraordinary efforts were made that any action was taken.

Lillian Kelly, 711 Polk street, was assaulted by two white men when she resented their improper proposals. According to her statement, she appealed to a police officer who came out of a saloon at 727 Polk street where liquor is openly dispensed, and who after receiving money from one of her assailants, refused to arrest them. When she protested, the officer promptly locked her up on a disorderly charge. When the case came up in court the arresting officer failed to appear. Nothing has yet been done.

Bell's Death Never Forgotten

It is still remembered that the inactivity of the Maxwell street police in ferretting out the Bell murder case, paved the way for Otto Epstein and Max Greenberg to gain their liberty.

These and many other things keep the situation greatly confused and make the atmosphere intensely charged with hatreds in these parts. Nothing is being done to alleviate the sad conditions except the efforts of the Peoples' Protective Circle at 1055 West 14th street, of the various churches of the community, and a few inadequite social service bureaus.

OPERATION, FOLLOWING AN ILLICIT LOVE AFFAIR, SENDS DOCTOR TO JAIL

Fifteen Year Old Girl Tells Lurid Tale of Infatuation Doctor Had for Her; Defense Council Claims 'Frame-up' as Girl Accuses Schmoll

Dr. Fritz Wesley Schmoll, a physician who, until lately has had an office at 3401 State Street, was convicted in Judge Marcus Kavanaugh's court Friday of having conducted an illegal operation upon a 15 year old girl, Hazel Diary, with whom he had been carrying on a clandestine love affair prior to the operation.

The girl has a reputation as a thief, and is at present under sentence at a penal institution for stealing, but was brought back from jail for the trial.

During the testimony of the girl, who gave her residence as 1117 Asbury avenue, Dr. Schmoll was very nervous, and took frequent notes, which he handed to his attorney. The girl stated that she didn't like to stay with her mother at the Asbury avenue address because discipline there was rather strict. She frequently would leave home and spend her time on the streets associating with loose women and licentious men. She was arrested and sent to the juvenile detention home in July for stealing a dress.

Doctor Charges Frameup

Dr. Schmoll endeavored to prove that Hazel Diary was a prostitute before he had met her, and that she and another girl named Queenie Jackson were trying to blackmail him. He alleged that at the juvenile detention home, where both girls had been incarcerated, the two had planned their sinister attack upon him and his reputation.

In support of the contention that Hazel Diary was a prostitute, John Kelley, clerk at the Columbia Hotel, 31st and State Streets, testified that the girl had been a guest at the hotel at frequent intevals and had allowed men to enter her room.

WHY THE PRESS PRINTS

CRIME AND SCANDAL NEWS

By CHANDLER OWEN

Chicago Defender 4-18-25

Should newspapers print stories of crime? Should they broadcast scandal? If the answer is yes, in what part of the paper should such news appear? Should it be taboo for the front page and consigned to the inside? What is the effect of such news upon the public? Is the result beneficial or deleterious? Should the policy of a Colored paper be different from a white?

The following is an important article, which should have been written some time ago, judging from the questions which are constantly presented to us by way of criticism of The Chicago Defender chiefly and the other papers in like proportion. Some weeks ago a man in Washington said "I don't want that paper to come into my house, it tells too much about crime." To which I replied "Without being an apologist for The Chicago Defender or the Negro press, is this any different from the white papers?"

To show that leading white people are doing a thing is usually considered sound argument in America and proof of its correctness. But this was not sufficient for him. My critic went on: "The white people are farther ahead than we are, they can afford such, but we can't."

This man was typical of numerous others who constantly besiege me with similar arguments. To hear them talk one would think Robert S. Abbott the arch criminal and anti-Negro protagonist in the country, while the other publishers are primarily criminal satellites. Fortunately, I am well acquainted and friendly with most of the responsible publishers. I know their interest in the race, the character of their service to the race, their aims. Moreover when one sees a large group of men who invest time, energy and give their time to some particular business, he had better go slow before being too sure in his criticism. The newspaper publisher must study human psychology and even when he cannot discourse on the fine-spun theories of William James, Hugo Munsterberg, Angell, MacDougall, Lester Ward, Thorndike, Elwood, Parmalee Everett Dean Martin, Freud, Euchen Bergson, Kant or Spencer—nevertheless, he has the faculty of grasping practical psychology to an unbelievable degree. He knows that a publication must have readers. To have readers, the reading matter must be interesting, and the most interesting things are the novel and pessimistic: murders, divorces, scandal in high life, robberies, safe blowings, counterfeiting, kidnaping, raping, automobile homicides, blackmail, bribery, bank failures, railroad wrecks, fires, war, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, explosions, whispered scandals, suicides.

Chicago Defender 4-18-25

Murder a Day

Gentle reader, you answer, with an air of certainty: These are common occurrences which take place almost daily. True, but they are novel, rare, far in the minority. For instance, Chicago, the most criminal metropolitan city in the world, averaged a murder a day in 1924—365 murders for the year. Still Chicago has population of three million, so three hundred or so murders constitute about three ten-thousandths of its population. Too many murders, it is true, but certainly novel and rare enough to stimulate interest. My reader is quite cocksure divorces are not so rare. Probably no so rare! They are about 12 per cent of the marriages, a percentage sufficiently small to engender the tang of interest. What about marriages you say. Is there not a great deal of interest in marriages? I answer no. People are interested in marrying—the wedding, the start—and thereafter all interest is lost until a subsequent scandal or divorce touches the couple's life. The reason? The wedding, the marrying, is of short duration, but the marriage is so long and commonplace that it ceases to hold zest either for the parties married or the public.

The argument of minority and rarity applies with equal force to scandal in high life, robberies, safe blowing, counterfeiting, kidnaping, raping, automobile homicides, blackmail, bribery, bank failures, railroad wrecks, fires, war, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, explosions, whispered scandals, suicides. Woe to the nation of which this was not so. America had nearly 800 bank failures last year. This is a small number of the thousands of banks in America. A few cashiers absconded, a small number of the thousands of cashiers, not to mention millions of men handling money in the nation.

The Contrast

I said the news assumed the role of interest in proportion as it was not only novel, but pessimistic. It must also bear the touch of pain—pain sometimes to the public, as in the case of war or a bank failure, as well as to the individual, as in the case of the banker. This love of pain, this intense desire to hurt is a hold-over of a very primitive instinct. Darwin points out that savages take delight in torturing their victims. Boys love to irritate a policeman and enjoy the chase. Most people like to tease and somebody is always the butt of a joke. Go away on a visit and come back after a sojourn of a few months. Let us say you are a resident of Chicago. Ask your friends upon returning what is the news of interest. Not one in ten thousand will tell you the New Binga bank has been opened, the Overton Hygienic building has been completed and the only Colored national bank is doing business to capacity, that The Chicago Defender is expanding its plant, that the Underwriters' Mutual Insurance company has bought a new home, that the Liberty Life Insurance company has gone into new offices in its own beautiful building, that many new church edifices have been purchased by their enterprising congregations. This would be considered dead, if not ancient history. What would you hear? Honor bright! Nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine would regale you with news of this order: Mary Smith was caught in a compromising position with a man and John Smith has divorced her; Henry Hystepper forged a note for which he has been sent to the penitentiary; Bethel church was burned down (if it had been rebuilt, you would have never heard about it); Slick Trickers' bank has failed; the We-See hotel was raided and they found several society girls in there. Dr. Dope Seller was arrested for dispensing cocaine; Liza Get-Rich-Quick was sent to prison for receiving stolen goods; Helen Dice and Henry Blue have been running a confidence game; Attorney Shyster has been disbarred for embezzlement; the Pic Sigh Oh My fraternity was raided while running a crap game in its fraternity house; and finally that the Debutant club has become the rendezvous of the city's pimps. Isn't this delicious news? Wouldn't the women of your city and town, wherever you are, eat it up? Of course. Dinah's diamond rings, fur coat and limousine on $100 a month would be the subject of untold gossip. The worse the news the greater the interest.

A negligible number of people crave news of the good. I should have said care for: they don't crave it. Evil is chiefly alluring; scandal is salacious; we are avid for the worst; prurient for the pernicious; anxious for slime and filth and dirt.

I have before me the Chicago Tribune, one of America's greatest newspapers. The front page is full of the Shepherd murder case, telling of how Lawyer Shepherd and Dr. Faiman are alleged to have given typhoid cultures to Shepherd's foster son, in order that Shepherd might inherit the million dollars from McClintock. There also are the British scandals, involving blackmail in the admiralty and royalty and aristocracy, along with bank robberies, bandit holdups and milder scandals too numerous to mention.

Referring to the three cases of scandal in high life now before the courts of England, the Chicago Tribune London correspondent says:

> **Today's cases occupied almost the entire front pages of all the papers, with the verbatim testimony taking up more than half the total news space.**

Which shows that even the so-called cold English populace must be avid for salacious news. And the British publishers cater to this appetite, too!

The Chicago Defender will present similar crimes among Negroes in its next edition. Are the Tribune and the Defender correct in doing this? Does such news warp, distort and debase the public mind?

The answer to these questions can best be given by asking a few others. Does reading about murders make one want to murder, or does it arouse his indignation against the villain who coldly and deliberately took another's life? When one sees a headline, "Bandits Rob the Bank," does it make the reader desire to become a bandit and rob, or does he more likely resolve to adopt measures to suppress banditry and persuade his friends to do likewise? When one reads of a divorce scandal, does she crave admission to the scandal ring, or does she decide to eschew the circumstances which would precipitate a scandal? (I am not overlooking those in whose breast wells up a determination to be more cautious.) What banker, reading of a bank failure, was ever persuaded to wreck his own bank? Would he not probably become more determined to ward off such a fate to his institution?

Fear of Publicity

It seems to me that the enemy's position pretty well determines the value of newspaper publicity. It is true that numbers of people so crave publicity that they are willing to be tied up in a scandal to get their names before the public, yet this is true in only a limited degree. The history of blackmail is proof of that; money running all the way into the millions has been and is constantly being paid to blackmailers. What for? To prevent publicity of derogatory, if not criminal, news. Often a man realizes that he can win his suit at law, yet declines for fear the publicity he will get may be more damaging to him than what he can recover. To illustrate: A prominent man is robbed in a house of prostitution of a thousand dollars. With a perfectly good legal case, will he—does he—sue to recover? A prominent woman with a man with whom she has no right to be and in a place where she should not enter is robbed of her diamonds. Let us assume that she can get them at law and recover from the pander, who has them. Will she? Not if the loss of her husband and much more valuable possessions confronts her through publicity in the press. In short, people fear the press more than the law. The criminal fears it will aid in his apprehension and after apprehension will arouse public opinion to secure his conviction.

At the beginning we asked whether, granting certain evils of publicity, the balance was in favor of good or evil. In asking this question I recognized that all was not good. The Leopold-Loeb kidnaping and murder case last year stimulated a sporadic kidnaping fever over the country. Shortly after the wave of banditry was broadcast from New York, a saturnalia of banditry covered the land. Reports of poisoning and murder cases apparently have released a Niagara of blood, whose crimson stream seems to have flowed to every state in the land.

Is Press Responsible?

Is a newspaper responsible for these augmenting crimes? Or have they augmented at all? One might very logically speculate on whether the press through increased diligence has not simply unearthed and thrown into bold relief a larger number of these crimes. And better still, whether this constant and pitiless publicity has not aroused a finer and more wholesome public indignation against crime and evil doing. A murder in a puritanic city naturally arouses more sensation than a murder in Chicago. Scandal broadcast from a quiet New England town shocks more than scandal broadcast from cosmopolitan and bohemian New York. A black spot on a white sheet shows more readily than a black spot on a polka dot sheet. In other words, contrasts stand out. When we had over a hundred lynchings a year, the occurrence created no shock. today, when lynchings are reduced to a very low number, the report of such barbarity receives condemnation in heretofore complacent quarters.

The newspapers must print crimes scandal and human foibles, as well as culture, social progress and achievements. It must be done by a Colored paper, just as much as by a white one. After all, crimes, divorces, robberies, murders, scandals are part and parcel of social history. It is as important to know that banditry is becoming intrenched in the city, that murderers are at large, that counterfeiters are debasing the currency, that confidence men are at work, as it is to know that smallpox is on State St., yellow fever on Indiana Ave., measles on Grand Blvd., typhoid and pneumonia interspersed throughout the city.

Forewarned is forearmed. Lester Ward says: "Whatever is worth being, is worth knowing, and finally some good must come from discovery of the truth." These important facts broadcast by the press will create interest among readers and so arouse sober public opinion that it will drive the criminals to the tall timber and retire them to that oblivion and obscurity from which they ought never to emerge.

Crime—1925. Kentucky.

Court Of Appeals Decision Saves Life Of Black Man

Frankfort, Ky., May 21.—Alex Gibson, Colored, doomed to die in the electric chair for burglary, is a happy man today, and, according to certain lawyers, may be a free man soon. Louisville News 5-23-25

The 1924 Legislature of Kentucky passed a law making burglary a crime punishable by death or life in the penitentiary. Alex Gibson was caught burglarizing in Lexington. He did not kill anybody, he was not armed, but he had entered a man's home. He was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death in the electric chair. His attorneys appealed the case, but the Fayette Circuit Court affirmed the decision. Friday of last week the Court of Appeals ruled the law was unconstitutional. The question now is can Gibson be tried again for the same offense? Can he be put in jeopardy a second time? Smart lawyers claim he ought to go free. This is the story:

The statute ,as enacted by the 1924 General Assembly, follows:

Every person guilty of burglary shall be punished with death or confinement in the penitentiary for life in the discretion of the jury.

This act shall not affect the statute or law of the State denouncing any penalty for robbery not accompanied by an act of burglary.

Gibson owes his life to the second paragraph.

The court said:

The addition of this second sentence has been the cause of much confusion. It has been an easy matter to ascertain just what the Legislature sought to accomplish by doing it. If by adding this sentence, the Legislature sought to prevent simple robbery being made a capital offense, then these words were unnecessary, and are mere surplusage, and they can be disregarded, and the remainder of the act held constitutional. If, by the addition of the last sentence, the Legislature sought to retain the then existing law against robbery, this last sentence was unconstitutional because it violates Section 51 of the Constitution.

First Opinion Erroneous.

The first interpretation would make the law constitutional; the second interpretation would make it unconstitutional, the court said. The appellate body took the position that the first interpretation of the act, as set forth in its first opinion, was erroneous.

Summing up the act generally, the court said:

When the second sentence of this act is eliminated and the first sentence upheld, there is left no provision for the protection of our citizens against robbery, a situation which it is very appaent the Legislature never contemplated. We are therefore compelled to hold that the Legislature intended this act as a whole ,and that without the second sentence, it would not have passed it. As the second sentence is clearly unconstitutional, the first must go with it, and the whole act must fall.

DEATH FOR BURGLARY HELD UNLAWFUL

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 25.—Alex Gibson, colored, doomed to die in the electric chair for burglary, is a happy man today, and according to certain lawyers, may be a free man soon.

The 1924 Legislature of Kentucky passed a law making burglary a crime punishable by death or life in the penitentiary. Alex Gibson was caught burglarizing in Lexington. He did not kill anybody, he was not armed, but he had entered a man's home. He was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death in the electric chair. His attorneys appealed the case, but the Fayette Circuit Court affirmed the decision. Friday of last week the Court of Appeals ruled the law was unconstitutional.

PATROLMAN CHARGED WITH BRUTALITY TO WOMAN

Dismissed From Police Force By Board of Safety

Patrolman W. O. Cusick was dismissed from the police department last Tuesday by the Board of Public Safety. Louisville News 11-25-25

Charges were filed before the Board charging Cusick with inexcusable and unnecessary violence in arresting Daisy Thompson, a Colored woman, at Ninth and Madison Streets, on the night of July 14.

It is alleged he struck the woman repeatedly over the head with his night stick. Pictures of the woman taken when she came from the hospital bear out these allegations.

Over twenty witnesses, all Colored, went to the City Hall Tuesday to testify. Only six were called, but apparently those six gave sufficient testimony.

At any rate, Cusick was asked to resign at once. He did.

BLACK BUT NOT YELLOW.

Several instances of automobile drivers killing or maiming pedestrians and running away have been reported recently. In contrast there is the case of Emmanuel Ford, a Negro who admits that he was a whisky runner, making a delivery, when he struck and killed Mrs. Nally. Louisville News 10-24-25

The Negro was administering first aid to the victim when a lieutenant of police arrived at the scene of the accident. He pointed out the car he drove and confessed the purpose for which he was driving it. Louisville Times 10-24-25

The Times has no inclination to make bootleggers appear as exemplary citizens. They are a sorry lot of parasites. But the Negro whose car killed Mrs. Nally was at least black without being "yellow." He did not attempt to run away, albeit by doing so he might have hoped to escape identification as a killer and whisky runner.—Louisville Times.

DEC 30 1925

MILLION DOLLARS FOR LOUISVILLE COLORED SCHOOLS

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 30,—The colored school system of Louisville will profit by more than a million dollars, providing for many improvements and extensions, as a result of two school bond issues recently voted by a majority of almost five to one The first an issue of one million dollars for the University of Lousiville will provide $200,000 to establish a colored department of the University will be maintained by taxation as a part of the University, system. A suitable site will be selected and a handsome building erected at once, where courses will be given in pedagogy, pre-medical training, English, modern languages, mathematics, and the sciences. Credits and degrees in this department will be conferred by the University.

From the larger bond issue of five million dollars for the improvement of the common schools the colored people of the city will get two new junior high schools, an elementary school, the transfer of three schools from the white to the colored department and the enlargement of two others. The building program involved will run to $800,000 or more, and the three schools to be transferred will carry the total beyond a million dollars.

WOMAN ASKS ASSAILANT "JOE WHAT'S MATTER WITH YOU?

Husband Sleeps Merrily On

There is a "Conscience Fund" in Washington, D. C., made up of money returned from people who have become conscience stricken over some theft and so returned the money, sometimes with interest, to Uncle Sam. Only the other day, here in Louisville, a woman who had been robbed found $1,700 worth of jewelry returned to her automobile.

Frequently highwaymen return mone yto their victims on the theory "You are poorer than I am."

But it remained for a Louisville Negro, one Joe Talbert, to set a precedent for all burglars, highwaymen and housebreakers. For it is recorded that Joe broke into a house, not to take anything away, but to give the inmates something!

The Louisville Times is a great daily. Its reporters are cynical and skeptical and doubtful observers and listeners. You have to bring them up something tangible and believable before they will report it. Can't fool them. Ad The Times carries the story that Joe Talbert, Negro, broke into a white man's home, 2723 Cedar, in the middle of the night. What did he do that for? Why did he do it? Joe must have thought the people in very poor and needy circumstances because he took a five dollar bill with him and awoke the woman who lay beside her sleeping husband, and urged her to take that $5 bill. He begged her to take it; he implored her, with tears running down his cheeks, to take it but she flatly refused and threatened to wake her husband, Joe, for the lady called him Joe, then commanded her to take the $5 bill and actually choked the lady. Seeing she wouldn't take it, Joe went out front and sat on the curbing and waited for day break. When it broke it found Joe broke too, for when the police arrested him he did not have the five dollar bill.

But The News can't tell the story as well as the Times toldit. So the following is taken from that great daily paper:

Warned to Keep Silent.

According to Mrs. Musal's story today, she was awakened when someone tapped her repeatedly, but rather gently, on one side. As she stirred a hand was placed upon her throat and a man was bending over her told her not to make a sound.

Though badly frightened, Mrs. Musal said she was able to make out in the light from a street lamp shining outside that the intruder was Talbert, a Negro who she had known by sight for about a year. The woman said she often saw Talbert outside his home as she was going to the grocery and understood he had the reputation of being a peaceful Negro.

"His breath smelled of whisky, and with his hand on my throat and the other threatening me with a short, heavy club, I was too frightened to scream," Mrs. Musal said.

'Here, take this." Mrs. Musal continued. "My husband was on the other side of the bed ad our little girl was between us, but they did not awaken.

"I said to the Negro, 'Joe, what's the matter with you?' and he knelt beside the bed and tried to make me take the money. When I pushed him away, still too frightened to make a noise because he said he would use the club on my husband if he was awakened, he tried to shove the $5 bill under my pillow."

Mrs. Musal said she tried to frighten the Negro away by saying her father was in the adjoining room, but instead the Negro went to the dividing door between the rooms and said he would shoot her husband if he stirred. The couple's oldest daughter, Mary Evelyn, 9 years old, and son, Henry, 7, were asleep in the front room and when the Negro ascertained there was no other man in the place he returned. Mrs. Musal said she was able to see a glittering object, which she thought was a shiny pistol, protruding from his pocket.

Tried to Awaken Husband.

While the Negro was away from the bed Mrs. Musal attempted to rouse her husband. Seeing this, the Negro again grasped her by the throat so roughly she was unable to make a sound and attempted to drag her from the bed.

It was then Mrs. Musal, realizing she could not frighten the Negro away, began battling with him. In an instant the commotion aroused Musal and seeing the Negro he procured a hatchet from a closet. There was no other weapon in the house and Mrs. Musal would not allow her husband to follow the Negro out the front door, where the intruder stood and dared Musal outside, with threats to shoot.

Police Sergt. A. Hoskinson and Patrolmen Ivan Waltrip and Andrew Miller of the Fourth District went to Talbert's home and got him out of bed when Mrs. Musal made complaint. The Negro maintained his innocence but Mrs. Musal was sure of the identification. Investigation revealed the Negro had removed a screen from a bedroom window to gain entrance.

Talbert, still insisting he was innocent of the charges, was held to the grand jury under total bail of 52,000 when arraigned in Police Court today.

Crime - 1925.

Louisiana

POLICE DO NOT CARE WHEN NEGROES FIGHT

Many Murders in New Orlean

(By Associated [redacted] Press.)

New Orleans, La., Sept. 10.—Police officials should take a more serious attitude towards murder and other crimes among colored people.

The attitude "It's just another nigger fight" is too common. So long as the victim and the murderer both ar colored, the killing attracts little notice and do not receive the police investigation and efforts they should. Even fewer of the Negro killers are captured thn the white. The law-abiding Colored people, and they are the large majority, are entitled to protection from the vicious members of their race. The August homicide statistics just released by th ecoloner show twenty-one murders in New Orleans of which 18 per Negroes.

Louisville News
Jan 2 1926
Negro Notices
New Orleans La.

Entire Machinery of State Acts to Free Stricken Negro Woman's Son Needed to Save Cotton Crop

11-3-25

Editor's Note: The following clipping from the Times-Picayune is demonstrative of the fact that whenever thrifty, self-respecting colored people of the South get into serious difficulties, there are always some white friends who are ready to give them immediate assistance. The colored woman about whom the above story is told, had tried to help herself and therefore, others were willing to hep her. The act of kindness, on the part of the white people of East Carrall parish, was voluntary and free from selfish motives, exploding at once the idea that the negro has no friends among the white people of the South.

Long-distasce teephone wires buzzed, a special hearing before the board of pardons was given and Governor Fuqua and other state officials worked overtime because an aged negro woman is paralyzed at her little shack in East Carroll parish.

The woman had worked her little farm of a few acres successfully until ten days ago. Her coton crop that will total one or two bales is just ready for picking.

Then came the paralytic stroke that made Mary Lu Black an invalid. She was despondent. Her cotton would rot on the stalks, and her vegetable garden would go to ruuin.

Neighbors came to the rescue. They engaged A. J. Wylie, Lake Providence attorney. Mary Lu had a son who was in the state penitentiary. If he could be pardoned immediately her crop could be saved.

The state board of pardons composed of Attorney-General Percy Saint, Lieutenant Governor O. H. Simpson and the judge from the court where the prisoner was tried, met in quarterly session yesterday and at the attorney's request, the case was taken up at once.

The son, Clay Thompson, was convicted of shooting with intent to kill and was serving a year in the penitentiary,, Mr. Wylie told the board. His record was excellent.

A hurried consultation on the case was held by Messrs. Saint and Simpson. The trial judge, Judge F. X. Ransdell, already had agreed to the pardon. The other two members also agreed.

A long-distance call for Governor Fuqua was put in and the chief executive and Attorney-General Saint conferred on the case.

Governor Fuqua agreed to the pardon and Wylie left for East Carroll parish with the good tidings for Mary Lu Black.

The paper swill be formally drawn and signed by Governor Fuqua, Attorney-General Saint, Lieutenant Governor Simpson, and the trial judge within a day or two, setting a record for speed in granting a pardon.

Crime-1925

Maryland.

LUMBIA (S. C.) NEGRO
ACQUITTED OF CHARGE
OF KILLING WHITE MAN

Columbia, June 5.—Edward Dav- Negro, was found not guilty of murder of David Simon, suburb- grocer, by a jury in circuit court e today. The jury was out about rty minutes. Simon was struck wn by an unknown man near his rage late in March and died two three days later.

Baltimore Herald 6-19-25

Baltimore, Md.

Dead Bank Bandit

Harry Onvitz, white, killed after an attempt to rob the Broadway Savings Bank. He blacked his face and passed for colored for a month before the crime.

Afro-American Baltimore Md 10-3-25

BANK BANDITS THOT COLORED PROVE WHITE

Blackened Face And Live For Month Among Colored Folk

TELLER IS INJURED NO FUNDS ARE TAKEN

Bandit Cornered Is Killed By Police Who Find Him White

The tragedy of death lifted the veil of secrecy from around the life of a white man Tuesday afternoon when a bullet-pierced body, blackened with burnt cork to conceal racial identity and hide crime, was found to be that of Harry Ovitz, white, 28, a participant in a daring attempt to rob the Broadway Savings bank an hour previous.

Afro-American Baltimore Md 10-3-25

The killing which reveaeld Ovitz's identity took place in the home of W. A. Adams, butler, 2012 McCulloh street, and the bullet which ploughed through his temple was fired by Sergt. Oscar Koch of the Northwestern District who thought the man he had cornered was colored.

Teller Injured

Following the atempted robbery of the Broadway Savings Bank in which John A. Damm, white, a teller in the bank, was mortally wounded, a Ford car in which one of the bandits was thought to have used was traced to the rear of the Williams' home on McCulloh street by Lieut. Martin W. Rudell and Patrolman William Dorhler and Sergt. Koch.

Sergt. Koch entered and was told by five year old Marjorie Adams that a light complexioned man lived there and that he was then in his room on the second floor.

Lucky Shot

When Koch drew near, according to his statement, the occupant of the room opened fire which he returned, one of his bullets luckily striking the man in the temple. With his face blackened he was rushed to the Colonial Hospital where he was found to be dead.

A few minutes later every evening paper in Baltimore had heralded the statement that "a Negro bandit" had been killed and that another had made his escape.

Three identifications of the dead man were made as he lay in the hospital and shortly after the tragedy. Herman Matthews told Lieut. Rudell that the man was Ernest Gambrell. Papers found on his body led officers also to believe him to be David Mitchell of Newark, N. J.

It was not until positive finger print methods had been used by the detective department that the dead manturned out to be Harry Ovitz, white.

Was At Y. M. C. A.

That Ovitz had for some time fraternized and lived with colored people was verified by records at the Druid Hill Branch of the Y. M. C. A., where is was found that he had lived for three days in August.

Ovitz and a man who gave his name as that of David Mitchell obtained a room at the "Y" on August 25th. They sat and talked in the lobby and found it easy to move normally about their business. They were ejected from this institution when it was found they had been arrested here on suspicion, according to Secretary S. S. Booker. While at the Y. M. C. A. Ovitz was known as Harry Clark.

Mrs. Daisy Adams, 2012 McCulloh street, in whose home Ovitz was cornered and killed, stated that he applied there for a room Wednesday night. He was accompanied by a man of darker complexion and of course taken to be colored by both Mrs. Adams and her husband.

Didn't Talk Much

Neither of the men talked much, she said, and left early each morning and did not return until evening. She knew nothing of their habits. There only belongs there was a small handbag. When examined by the officers this bag contained a number of necessary toilet articles and a supply of burnt cork and grease. Mr. and Mrs. Adams, who are from Virginia, came here about five years ago and own their home at 2012 McCulloh street. He is a butler.

Pal Escapes

Opinion differs as to the racial identity of Oviz's accomplice. Another man of "light complexion" is said to have been seen with him at times and it is believed that both of these men blackened their skin to throw officers off the track. All descriptions given of the bandit who did the shooting in the bank tally with that of Ovitz.

Disguised as Negro, Dead

CAPITALIZING color as a cloak under which to commit crimes has long been the custom of some members of the white group. In this way they hope to divert attention of the public from the fact of the proneness of their group to commit crime, while at the same time they think to keep up the unfounded and unjust indictment frequently lodged that the Negro is more criminally inclined than other elements of the population.

Recently this ruse of the white man is coming to light. The public press, the aggressive Negro press always on the defensive, has disclosed by conclusive evidence the fact that in crimes of highway robbery, of murder, of theft, of incendiarism, of rape and similar transgressions against society, very often the actual perpetration of the deed is by white criminals, but persecution therefor is visited viciously and violently upon Negroes, who are apprehended because traditionally the Negro must be the scapegoat for the sins of the community, especially in the South.

In Baltimore the other day a young white man twenty-eight years of age, goaded on by the desire to revel in the benefits derived from ill-gotten gain, determined on robbery as the means of acquisition. He blackened his face with burnt cork in order to screen his racial identity. He then proceeded to the Broadway Savings Bank where, after much wild shooting, he was foiled in his attempt to rob the bank. Traced an hour later to his lodging place—a colored home that had not suspected his wily ways or his identity—he met the pursuing detective by firing upon him, fortunately missing his mark. The detective in turn, thinking he was shooting only a colored man, promptly returned the fire, his bullet piercing the temple of the would-be robber. Rushed to the hospital, the robber's body found dead there was identified promptly as that of Harry Ovitz, white.

It is a drab story. Sad, indeed, for Ovitz that his young life should have been thus so tragically brought to a close. 'Tis sad, too, that he should ever have become possessed of such unworthy ideals and his life pitched upon so ignoble a level as to attempt to acquire what was not his by methods of dishonesty enforced by violence. Sad, indeed, it is for such relatives as are disgraced by his conduct and its consequences—particularly pathetic must be the figure of that sorrowing mother, if she still lives, somewhere in her haunted home, as she broods over the dastardly deed of the man-child to whom she gave birth—the supremest gift of mother love. The world's sympathy is due her. She may not or she may be culpable for the disgraceful ending of her son's death. If she taught him in childhood and youth the obligation to respect the rights of society, regardless of creed and color, his criminal meanderings and misdoings are not to be charged to her. If on the other hand she taught him to ignore the claims of society, to disrespect the Negro, to go through life at any cost, even that of bringing down upon the Negro the disrespect and hatred of the community, she and she only must go through life hereafter sharing with her son the guilt of his disgraceful criminal deed.

But it would seem that stern justice intervened to lift the hand of universal suspicion from the shoulders of the Negro group now suffering for a multitude of crimes they have never committed. In the scheme of eternal justice, poor Ovitz, disguised as a Negro, now lies dead.

Crime-1925.

Mississippi

FOUR NEGROES ACQUITTED

Alleged Slayers of Mrs. Nellie Mardis Once In Shadow of Gallows.

JACKSON, Miss., June 25.—The jury in the case of Lonnie Hunter, Isom Hanson, Oscar Johnson and Herman Williams declared the four defendants not guilty of the charge of murdering Mrs. Nellie Mardis, who was found slaughtered in her store near Smith Station, this county, on the A. & V. Railroad in January, 1923. The testimony against the negroes rested solely on the veracity of a little half-witted negro, who said he helped the men to kill the woman. These negroes had been convicted on the same testimony at a former trial, but the supreme court refused to let the verdict stand on the unsupported testimony of the little Negro. Public opinion generally was [illegible]

FOUR NEARLY HANGED FREED AT NEW TRIAL

Jackson, Miss., July 7 (ANP).—Once convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged by the Mississippi courts, and granted a new trial by the supreme court, four members of our group, charged with the murder of Nellie Mardis, a white storekeeper at Smith station, were acquitted here Monday.

86 PRISONERS RECEIVED

Number In Mississippi Penitentiary Increases To 1,419

JACKSON, Miss., August 29.—(Special.)—Eighty-six prisoners, twice the average received in an ordinary month, carried the Mississippi prison population during the period from July 25 to August 25, to 1,419, it was shown in the monthly report made by Mrs. O. M. Spickard, assistant secretary and director of the board of prison trustees, and Sam Nunnelly Reynolds, sergeant. This number allows for 57 discharges and escapes.

Of the 86 received, 15 were murderers, an unusually large number to be convicted of that crime in a single month. All of these were negroes. The number of white men included in the total is outsanding in the ordinary relative number of white men and negroes received at the state penitentiary. More than a third of the prisoners sent to the camp during the period were white, white men convicted and sentenced numbered 29 and negroes 57.

BROWN TO GALLOWS.

Negro Convicted of the Murder of W. T. Pate.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss., Aug. 28.—Aubrey Brown, negro, was found guilty of murder by a jury in circuit court here today. Brown was convicted of the murder of W. T. Pate, an aged farmer who resided on the Collierville Road in the northern part of the county. The crime was an unusually brutal and atrocious one, and created considerable excitement at the time. Pate was found with his head crushed and beaten to a pulp in his store by neighbors. No trace of the murderer could at that time be found, but by persistent efforts of Sheriff Ford and his officers and with the co-operation of Shelby County officials Brown was apprehended and the crime traced to him. A confession from him was obtained at the time. Brown went to trial, however, and denied the crime. Being without counsel the court appointed Hon. Lester G. Fant and Hon. Dean Belk of the local bar to defend him. Judge Pegram pronounced the death sentence after the verdict and fixed the date of execution for Friday, Oct. 2.

PRISON POPULATION WILL BE CLASSIFIED

Gov. Whitfied Gives His Views on Needed Reforms.

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 18.—(AP)—Mississippi's entire prison population will be classified according to color, sex, intelligence, mental and physical condition, and propensity for crime, to the end that the various classes may be [illegible] properly, according to plans now being shaped by Gov. Henry L. Whitfield. The work was to have been started some time ago, but on account of illness of the expert employed to do the work it has necessarily been deferred.

Mississippi has five penal farms, ranging in size from Parchman farm, with 15,720 acres, worth $1,074,624; down to Rankin farm with 2,740 acres, worth $82,200. On these farms more than 1,500 prisoners live and work for the state. Over them all is a general superintendent, with a sergeant in active charge on each farm, while three prison trustees exercise supervisory direction over the entire penal system.

"It is our purpose to have an accurate survey made of Mississippi's prison population," Gov. Whitfield said, "the buildings and other physical equipment of the various farms, the efficiency of their operation and the possibilities for improvement under existing conditions."

The chief executive has certain definite convictions along this line and the prison survey will be conducted under his supervision.

"I am sure that quite a number of our prison population are congenital criminals with natural and hopelessly unchangeable inclinations for the commission of crime," he asserted. "It seems to be the record of certain burglars, for example, that no matter how long their incarceration or how severe their punishment, they will blow a safe at the first opportunity after their release. It seems to me that while such criminals should always be treated humanely, it is imperative that they should be separated from the first offenders and from those whose hereditary impulses do not impel them to a life of crime, and who may be saved from future criminal acts. I am sure our expert will also find a large number who, under the stress of great temptation or in moments of weakness, have committed one crime, but given another chance would so live that they could be entirely trusted by society. While I would not coddle to this class, for I think they must suffer a penalty for wrongdoing, at the same time I believe that this period of duress should be used by those in authority to give them special training and stimulate in them ideals that will not make them more efficient citizens and more productive members of the economic order when they leave the prison, but will put into their lives a deep rooted desire for right living."

At the present time the main occupation of the Mississippi prisoners is farm work, the governor pointed out, and he expressed the opinion that this work should be so organized and conducted as to teach not only practical agricultural science as applied to the farm, but also the use of the proper implements for the illustration of these principles. He said that the introduction of such trades as carpentry, brickwork, cabinet work, shoemaking, weaving, and other practical arts and crafts, was needed "so that those prisoners having special aptitude for those trades may have the opportunity to receive such training while rendering service to the state, and thus acquire an increased earning power which will be a strong incentive for correct living after their release.

"Again, I am quite sure that a close study of our prison population will show that there are quite a number of men and women of a low order of intelligence, some of whom should not be in the penitentiary, but in other institutions supported by the state. In fine, my general idea is that each person convicted of violating the law and sentenced for a term in our penitentiary should be made to work and repay at least a part of the expense he has occasioned the state, but while he is discharging this debt, wherever it is possible so to do, he should be so trained that the door of hope will be open to him, that he may look beyond the years of his incarceration to a new life which he may begin when he leaves the prison camp and that he may have a determination to utilize all the opportunities which he had while in servitude to the state, in preparing himself for a better and more efficient living when he is again intrusted with his own liberty.

"I believe the physical conditions which surround him during the period of his incarceration should be the very best. The buildings should be sanitary and the laws of personal hygiene should be scrupulously observed. Opportunities should be provided for proper recreation. The food should be nourishing and plentiful. The treatment while firm should be kind and considerate. Every incentive should be held out to these unfortunates, to render themselves deserving of the favorable treatment of the authorities.

"I believe that some system of indeterminate sentences should be worked out and after a number of years have been served, the entire prison record of a convict should be studied and the responsible authorities should be given the legal power, when conduct has merited clemency, to grant a pardon.

"For all prisoners I believe that moral, intellectual and religious instruction should be provided in addition to industrial training and that every effort should be put forth to make the convict a cleaner man, a man of higher ideals and one more determined to live worthily in the future when he again has an opportunity of projecting his own life.

Crime's 14 Points

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 9—Speaking before the National Conference of Juvenile Agencies at the Hotel Edwards [illegible] Commissioner of Institutions and Agencies of the State of New Jersey, outlined fourteen major causes of crime. They were as follows:

1—Better organization and leadership of the criminal element.

2—"Steam Age" cities.

3—Breaking up of the American home.

4—Great variety of races in our cities.

5—Decline of fear of eternal punishment.

6—Modern Materialism.

Modern government.

8—Complexity of modern governmental machinery.

9—Obsolete laws and procedure.

10—Poor pay for judges and prosecutors.

11—Lack of adventure in ordinary living.

12—Improper use of firearms, automobiles and narcotics.

13—Lack of comprehensive moral and social program.

14—Congested police blotters, court calendars and institutions.

Among the remedies which Mr. Lewis proposed for these causes of crime were the substitution of a religion of performance for one of negation, the simplification of government and the elimination of obsolete laws and legal procedure.

He declared that the nation's annual bill for crime amounted to somewhere between four and ten billion dollars. He recommended a thorough-going study of the criminal law, as thorough as the study of civil law now under way, and national and international action to control the use of firearms, automobiles and narcotics.

"Some people cannot be trusted with the devices of modern civilization," he said.

Miss Edna R. Jathe, superintendent of the New Jersey State Home for Girls, speaking before the conference, urged the use of small family cottage groups in institutions for juveniles.

"When the State, through its institutions for juveniles, is compelled to take the place of a parent," she said, "then the need for small family groups with trained officers in charge of each cottage is evident."

Crime-1925. Missouri.

Masterpiece Of Legal Murder" Reported To N. A. A. C. P. From Missiouri

Governor Sam A. Baker Wouldn't "Worry or Bother Over the Matter"

What is described as a "masterpiece of legal murder" as reported to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as having occurred in Missouri on July 18, when a Negro, James Crump, was hanged, despite sworn statements of reputable white men that he had not had a fair trial, and that the local mob had only permitted the legal farce to be enacted upon assurance that Crump would be hanged.

Missouri is rapidly forging to the front as one of the leading lynching states, the latest public murder having occurred at Excelsior Springs, on August 7.

The legal murder of James Crump is reported by the St. Louis Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. to have occurred as a consequence of his being accused of killing in a fight a white sheriff, who was said to be his rival in the affections of a colored woman.

It is charged that a white lawyer, who had Crump's case abandoned it in mid-trial, that another lawyer appointed by the court had missed many opportunities favorable to his client; and that a colored lawyer had accepted more than $300 from Crump's mother, proceeds of the sale of her home, and had merely mailed a brief to the Supreme Court. The case was twice reviewed and decided against Crump by the State Supreme Court. Of the trials at Jefferson City and Mexico, Mo., the report to the N. A. A. C. P. states:

"Trials at both places had only been made possible without murderous interruptions by the populace by official assurances that conviction and execution were certainties."

Moreover: "At both trials, the common public expression was that anything less than a death sentence would precipitate the immediate execution of Crump by white citizens, who were in both instances numerously on hand and blatant of their purpose. The Judge (who presided at both trials) laughed down the request that St. Louis, Kansas City or other towns outside the atmosphere of prejudice against, and hatred of Crump, be the seat of his trial."

Attorney Edwin F. Kenswill of the local N. A. A. C. P. Legal Committee procured sworn testimony of reputable white citizens and went to see Governor Baker who allowed him only two minutes and abruptly terminated the audience by leaving the room and slamming the door.

"A large volume of petitions, protests, etc.," the report to the N. A. A. C. P., continues, "were hurried up to the Governor, up to the night before the day of execution. This stream poured from Montgomery County whites of the better class. . . . Hopeless of doing anything with the Governor, early in the time following Crump's conviction, we considered what might be done through the Federal Court. . . . We sent Mr. Kenswil to Montgomery City for a transcript of the record of trial including the testimony. For five days we went over this testimony with very competent attorneys—eight or nine—again and again, seeking something that would be sufficient to justify U. S. District Judge Davis in issuing a writ of habeas corpus. . . . The official lynchers at Montgomery had made a masterpiece of legal murder. They had conformed neatly with every legal requirement. Just as the change of venue had been granted, as it were, to another ROOM, just so had they been perfectly regular in the trial at Montgomery, giving the defendant everything that was due him—except justice."

The testimony against Crump is described as "a mass of contradictory and unbelievably unreasonable testimony."

Mr. Kenswil states that H. H. Sturgeon, a white man who attended the trial at Montgomery City, personally presented to Gov. Baker a petition signed by upwards of 30 white citizens, who believed Crump to have had no fair trial.

Mr. Kenswil further states Gov. Baker warned him before his interview "that anything I might say will have no effect upon him."

Claude R. Ball, a reputable white attorney of Montgomery City writes: "He (the Governor) was dead set against Crump and finally told me that he would not grant him a stay of execution for even one minute. I was worse than disgusted at his conduct."

Gov. Baker himself wrote in a letter of July 7: "the Governor does not intend to worry or bother over the matter at all."

CRUMP'S HANGING LEGAL MURDER?

GOV. SAM A. BAKER WOULDN'T "WORRY OR BOTHER" OVER THE MATTER.

PETITION BY WHITE CITIZENS IGNORED IN CASE

NEW YORK, Aug. 17th.—What is described as a "masterpiece of legal murder" is reported to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as having occured in Missouri on July 18, James Crump, was hanged, despite sworn statements of reputable white men that he had not had a fair trail, and that the local mob had only permitted the legal farce to be enacted upon assurance that Crump would be hanged.

The legal murder of James Crump is reported by the St. Louis Branchof the N. A . A. C. P., to have ocurred as a consequence of his being accused of killing in a fight a white sheriff, who was said to be his rival in the affections of a colored woman.

It is charged that a white lawyer who had Crump's case abandoned it in mid-trial, that another lawyer appointed by the court had missed many opportunity favorable to his client; and that a colored lawyer had accepted more than $300, from Crump's mother, proceeds of the sale of her home, and of her home, and had merely mailed a brief to the Supreme Court.

KANSAS CITY MO TIMES
NOVEMBER 21, 1925

Negro Gets Five Years for Theft.

Aaron Wilson, negro, 35 years old, who recently came here from St. Joseph, pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary and larceny before Judge Alien C. Southern in the criminal court late yesterday and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. Last Tuesday Wilson entered the home of Mrs. R. L. Bishop, 3305 Crescent avenue, Mt. Washington, and stole clothing and jewelry valued at $25.

Crime - 1925

North Carolina.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Union Republican

NOV 12 1925

Governor Saves Negroe's Life.

Governor McLean, Thursday, commuted the sentence of Martin McGill, Union county negro who was scheduled to die in the electric chair last Friday for dispatching his wife with a knife. After he cut her throat he made a murderous attack on his mother-in-law also.

On just what grounds the negroe's life was saved is not known but it is suspected that the fact that W. D. Clark, of Waxhaw, who sat on the jury that convicted McGill and sent him to the chair, later on was a member of the Union county jury that freed W. B. Cole, Rockingham slayer of Bill Ormond, had considerable to do with it. How Mr. Clark can justify his position in these two instances is unexplainable and perhaps the governor decided that it would not do to have a law in North Carolina for rich men that would not do also for poor white trash and negroes.

CAROLINA CHAINGANG PRACTICE ABOLISHED

Albemarle, N. C., November 28.—(AP)—The Stanly county road board, acting under authority of a special act of the last legislature, today abolished the Stanly county chaingang and transferred the convicts of this county to Union county. This action came as a sequel to the indictment and resignation yesterday of N. C. Cranford, superintendent of the chaingang, who was charged with murder in connection with the death of two negro convicts and with assault with a deadly weapon upon another.

Governor Is Asked To Commute Death Sentence Of Negro

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Dec. 11.—Commutation of the death sentence of Alvin Mansel, negro, to life imprisonment has been requested of Gov. Angus W. McLean in an appeal signed by the women whom the negro was convicted of having attacked.

The woman, who lives near Asheville today told newspapermen of signing a letter written by Mrs. Townsend of Asheville, mother of Luther Townsend. Townsend is serving a sentence for having participated in the mob that stormed the Buncombe county jail, while Mansel was a prisoner there.

The woman said that she made the plea for clemency to McLean in the hope that he would extend leniency to members of the mob convicted and given prison terms.

Decline In Negro Crime

Judge Schenck of Guilford County, N. C., Superior Court, after disposing of his docket the other day, glanced at the race designations opposite the names of the offenders that had been before him for the term and remarked: "I want every white man in court to take notice of this. Only three Negroes have been sentenced thus far and here the Anglo-Saxon race has 17 representatives in the list of felons. It did not use to be this way in the Guilford courtroom." At the judge's remark the solicitor was moved to explain it was that way in every court in the judicial district.

In this connection the *Greensboro Daily News* observes: "Yet we doubt if anybody has any real idea of why there are more white youths in court now—if that is the case—or why there are less Negroes."

Why there are more youthful white felons before the courts of North Carolina in late years does not admit of a definite explanation, we agree. In the absence of scientific data, the most that can be offered in the way of explanation is the mere generalization that the state, being one of the American Union, is to a natural degree sharing in the national crime wave which is now seriously engaging the attention of the National Crime Commission.

But as to the decline of youthful Negro felons in North Carolina, and we believe that to be the case when her capita is considered, the explanation is ready. It comes down from Raleigh. The Department of Public Instruction, backed by the state's late governors and legislatures; its taxpayers and public sentiment daily afford the explanation. In dealing with the young Negroes, the state's educational system, admittedly the best to be found below the Mason-Dixon line, is winning out in competition with the county sheriffs.

The excellent school houses the state is building in every village and hamlet are denying the convict camps of good Negro labor, and saving the counties the expense of convict board. Self-respect, moral firmness to shun petty crimes, training in the practical art of earning a decent livlihood, ambition to become worthwhile citizens and to count for something—products of education, all—are more and more motivating the lives of the young Negroes of the state, and, of course, Guilford county and all other of North Carolina will continue to witness a decline in Negro felons. And we know of no agency that has been more instrumental in bringing about better educational and living conditions for Negroes in North Carolina than the *Greensboro Daily News* itself, thus becoming partly responsible for Judge Schenck's remarks.

And after all, it is probable that the increase of youthful white felons before North Carolina courts in late years is alarming only in contrast with the decline of Negro felons, and not in its disproportion to the same condition in other parts of the country. But when the people of the state admit they are witnessing a decline in Negro petty crime, they are paying themselves the highest possible compliment, and vindicating their own educational policy.

Crime — 1925. North Carolina.

FEBRUARY 26, 1925

FINDS WHIPPINGS GIVEN PRISONERS JUSTIFIED

Three Negroes Whipped At Camp Near High Point For Refusing to Work.

PHYSICIAN WAS PRESENT

"The negroes were perfectly able to stand the whipping, they received and were not hurt," Dr. T. M. Stanton, High Point physician, said last night, speaking of a lashing that three negro convicts were given Saturday by L. E. Hanner, superintendent of the county convict camp near High Point. Dr. Stanton witnessed the whipping.

A request for an investigation was made to the welfare department and Fielding Fry, chairman of the Guilford welfare board, visited the camp yesterday afternoon. He makes the following statement:

"By questioning the negroes, I found that they were not permanently injured. I also found the general condition of the camp good, as convict camps go. However I have always been of the opinion that the wagon-cage type of prison which is used at the High Point camp is an abomination and should be abolished. It seems to me that Guilford is abundantly able to build more central stockades that the prisoners may be able to have more commodious quarters in which to sleep. As it is, the spread of disease in the wagons seems to me to be entirely probable on account of the proximity of the cots.

"In looking into the circumstances surrounding the whipping, I have come to the conclusion that the negroes got what they deserved. There is only one particular in which I think Superintendent Hanner erred. That is, he should have brought the prisoners to the county jail or to the central stockade to be punished as provided for in rules recommended by a former grand jury."

Mr. Hanner said that the negroes had been whipped because they refused to work and that he had had no trouble with them since the punishment was administered. The negroes, on private examination, declared that they had worked faithfully. Other negroes who were working near those punished to all questions as to the diligence of the ones whipped, said they didn't know. Those who received the punishment were: James Miller, of Alamance county, William Walker, of Wilson, and Andrew Copeland, of High Point.

Mr. Hanner said that these were the first whippings administered in a long time. "As a rule my negroes have been well behaved but 13 new ones came in last week and they thought they were going to run everything. It was from this number that the three were whipped."

The welfare board chairman further stated that he found Mr. Hanner equal to any convict camp superintendent that he knew, in point of treating his prisoners well. "I think that it would be a mistake to take the lash from convict discipline however, I do not think that this punishment should be given as a last resort and by a disinterested party after a doctor has examined the one who is to be whipped."

COLORED PROVE MORE LAW ABIDING RACE

More White Than Colored People Jailed In Guilford County During 1924.

Greensboro, N. C., Jan. 9—Negroes in Guilford county are more law abiding than white people. For there were more white persons locked up in the Guilford county jail last year than Negroes. The count stood 869 to 704, when the books of M. D. Caffey, jail warden were closed for 1924.

Of the federal prisoners incarcerated 125 were of the white race and 20 were representatives of the Negro race. During the year 266 women were jailed. Most of these were transferred from cells to do work around the jail. A number of them were tried and freed at the culmination of the hearing or sent to the State penitentiary.

OMITTING CRIME NEWS

What motivated the citizens of Fayetteville, N. C., to vote by the tremendous majority of 60 to 1 for the reinstatement of crime news in their local paper after the paper had tried the experiment of omitting it for a week, is, of course, only a matter of conjecture. What motivates any great body of people to do what it does is always a matter of conjecture. It is safe to say, therefore, that it was because the public desired a truthful newspaper.

The news pages of any newspaper, provided it be a good newspaper, simply mirror what the public is doing. If there is an abundance of church news, it is because the churches are active; if there is an abundance of sport news, it is because those interested in sports are supporting them handsomely; if there is an abundance of news about schools and business and the professions, it is because those who are engaged in those phases, are active. And if there is an overabundance of crime news, it is because our criminal class is busy. A cartoonist for the Chicago Tribune recently illustrated the point perfectly. He posed the editor of the newspaper as the artist before his easel. The monster "Crime" was his model. A shocked reader with hair standing on end, protested, "How terrible! Why don't you leave him out of the picture." The moral of the picture, as the cartoonist saw it, was "You can't paint pretty pictures with satan for a model."

The public behavior determines, of course, the beauty of the picture the newspaper draws. It is untruthful not to print crime news; it is pretending that things are not as they are. Only one daily newspaper in the United States has ever been successful in omitting crime news and that paper is successful because it obtains much of its circulation through members of a closely-knit religious sect who feel it a part of their duty to subscribe to the paper. It is a good newspaper, one of the best from many standpoints in the country, but it is not a complete newspaper. Those who subscribe to it almost invariably subscribe to another to supplement it. The public wants crime news.

The effect of publishing it is moot. Lay proponents—those who are not newspaper editors—argue that the moral effect is good because punishment always (or most always) follows crime and this is impressed upon the young reader. The opponents argue that the effect is bad because there is a peculiar psychology dominant in some of the people that leads them into the commission of crime to obtain publicity.

There is no doubt much weight to the argument. The harm does not come, however, in publishing crime news; it comes in giving too much stress to it and in making heroes of criminals. Chapman was a man who ran through society's sewers for twenty years. He was a thief as a boy; he was a thug and a crook; he was a "bad egg." Yet when he went on trial at Hartford, all the citizenry applauded him and the larger newspapers made him heroic in the eyes of the young reader. He was entitled to nothing more than contempt. He received none of that. The Chapman trial will be responsible for many crimes yet uncommitted.

The Telegraph has no remedy to suggest. It believes that as long as crimes are committed, crime news will be printed and read. Not even the Bible is optimistic enough to prognosticate that the end of crime will arrive before end of time.

Misused Money.

Statistics showing that in 1923 approximately 7,000 negroes paid approximately $130,000 in fines to the Municipal Court of Winston-Salem are strikingly presented by The Journal. The average fine was $19 but since the same offenders were before the court more than once the real average was larger.

Money misused—wasted as if it had been burned was this $130,000. Vain to talk of a benefit to the school fund where the net proceeds of fines go: to "overhead" of maintenance of court and police and their accessories was even more than this. It is the old argument that saloons were good things because they keep up the schools.

Commenting that the offenders might have made far better use of the money by helping their race, The Journal says: "This amount of money in 1923 would have built a very creditable Y. M. C. A. plant. A similar amount in 1924 would have built an equally efficient Y. W. C. A. institution. The well meaning members of the colored race in Winston-Salem thus have to carry a very embarrassing deficit. One hundred and thirty thousand dollars paid out for the commission of crime and misdemeanors is a tremendous liability. It is the poorest form of investment. Mentioning this problem does not solve it by any means, but recognition of a problem should be the taking of a long step toward its solution."

WHITE MEN HELD ON CHARGE OF MURDER

Rockingham, N. C., June 18—A preliminary hearing was held Tuesday afternoon for Willie Ward and Jimmie Macclemore, two white men who are charged with attempt to assault a 14-year old Negro girl, whose name is withheld, two miles east of town on May 25th, and then threw her little brother in a pond to drown.

The two men offered alibis as their defense, and were defended by three attorneys. Magistrates McColl and Barrett, however, considered there was probable cause, and remanded the case to July 20th term of Superior Court for trial by jury. They were unable to furnish bond and are still in jail.

FOUR INDICTMENTS IN FLOGGING DEATH

Guards and Foreman of Convict Camp Face Prosecution in Assaults and Murder

TARBORO, N. C., June 10.—The number of indictments growing out of a grand jury investigation of conditions at the Rocky Mount road district convict camp, where Joe Armstrong, a convict died recently after being flogged was increased today to four, three of them charging murder.

George Cooper, former guard, was indicted on a charge of murder in connection with the death June 17, 1924 of Roy Scott, a convict and B. H. Bynum, who resigned yesterday after serving six years as captain of the camp, was indicted on seven counts alleging assault upon prisoners. Cooper was arrested today at Raleigh, officials here were advised, and a capias for Bynum was sent to Rocky Mount, his home.

W. C. Gulley former boss of the camp, and R. V. Tyler, guard, who were indicted on charges of murder in connection with Armstrong's death, pleaded guilty to manslaughter Monday and were sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary at hard labor.

Liabilities

During 1923 approximately 7,000 negroes paid into the city treasury approximately $130,000 as fines assessed against them upon conviction for various offenses in the Municipal Court. The statistics for white people regarding their contributions to the same cause are not available at this writing, but the totals no doubt would be quite impressive. The average fine paid by negroes was nearly $19. That indicates that some of the fines were large while others were nominal. In not a few instances the same negroes were fined more than once, thus indicating that there were not 7,000 separate offenders.

Now the point that seems to be sharpest when these figures are considered is the progress that the colored race in Winston-Salem could have made had this sum of $130,000 been paid voluntarily for enterprises of community betterment. This amount of money in 1923 would have built a very creditable Y. M. C. A. plant. A similar amount in 1924 would have built an equally efficient Y. W. C. A. institution. The well meaning members of the colored race in Winston-Salem thus have to carry a very embarrassing deficit. One hundred and thirty thousand dollars paid out for the commission of crime and misdemeanors is a tremendous liability. It is the poorest form of investment. Mentioning this problem does not solve it by any means, but recognition of a problem should be the taking of a long step toward its solution.

N. Y. C. TELEGRAM & EVE. MAIL
JUNE 13, 1925

TWO GO TO PRISON IN NEGRO FLOGGING

North Carolina Jury Reveals Cruelty in Convict Camp.

TARBORO, N. C., Saturday.—First result of Grand Jury indictments here in the investigation of alleged brutal treatment of negro prisoners, one of whom was beaten to death and another slain within a year, in the convict camp in the Rocky Mount road district, stirred this section today.

W. C. Gulley, foreman of the camp, and R. V. Tyler, a guard, have been sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary for the flogging to death of Joe Armstrong, a negro convict, June 4. George Cooper, another guard, is in jail, charged with the murder of Roy Scott, a prisoner, July 17, 1924. B. H. Bynum, road superintendent for six years, has been indicted on nine counts for assaults on prisoners in the same camp, but he has not been arrested.

The killing of a white boy who tried to escape from the camp a year ago will also be investigated by the Grand Jury. All the executives and guards of the camp have been forced to resign.

The trial of Guily and Tyler disclosed that Armstrong had been beaten in the camp the morning of his death for refusal to work as directed. Upon reaching the road he again refused to work. He was beaten with a stick and flogged with a lash by Gulley and Tyler until he could not rise from the ground. He was then dragged off the road with a pair of mules and soon afterward died.

WILMINGTON N. C. STAR
JUNE 2, 1925

NEGROES GREATLY OUTNUMBER WHITE

Monthly Police Report Shows the Department Was Kept Fairly Busy

The police department made 190 arrests during May. Of this number 128 were negroes and 62 whites. This information is contained in the monthly report of Chief of Police Lane which was filed with Mayor Mrs. Katherine M. Cowan a few minutes before she retired yesterday as the city's chief executive.

The report also points out that all four of the automobiles reported stolen during the month were recovered and returned to their owners. Also 32½ gallons of liquor was seized and destroyed. In addition six quarts of wine was also destroyed.

Following is the report of the chief, showing the offense and total indicated, black and white, in each instance. In reading this one should remember that the figures given first in each instance represent whites and the second ones negroes with no totals shown:

Assault with deadly weapon, 0;12 assault, 0;4; assault on female, 2;11 gambling, 0;13; driving ordinance 3;8; prohibition, 3;11; carrying weapons, 1;1; drunk, 10;11; disorderly conduct, 3;5; larceny, 2;y3; prostitution, 2;3; reckless operation of automobile, 4;3; nuisance, 0;1; capias, 4;7; operating automobile drunk, 7;3; vagrancy, 1;3; assault and battery, 3;0; affray, 2;3; violating health law, 2;0; speeding, 8;5; receiving stolen goods, 1;3; fornication and adultery, 0;2; no chauffeur license, 2;1; fugitive from justice, 1;1; bastary, 0;1; deserting ship, 1;0; trespassing, 0;1; safe keeping, 0;2.

GUARDS ARE CHARGED WITH NEGRO'S DEATH

Rocky Mount, N. C., June 6.—W. C. Gulley and R. V. Tyler, guards at the Rocky Mount district prison camp, today were formally charged with murder in connection with the death of Joe Armstrong, Negro prisoner, who died shortly after he is said to have been beaten by them.

Following the filing of charges by Solicitor Don Gilliam, the men were jailed, without privilege of bond, at Tarboro, N. C., to await preliminary hearing tentatively set for June 15.

The guards were held responsible late yesterday by a coroner's jury for the death of the prisoner, which occurred Thursday. Evidence was submitted by fourteen camp guards and one prisoner to the effect that the negro was beaten by both of the accused men. Further testimony was to the effect that his heavily shackled body was hitched to a pair of mules and dragged for approximately 75 yards. He died within 30 minutes afterward, witnesses said.

NORTH CAROLINA HOMICIDES

North Carolina contributed more than its quota to the crime wave of the nation during the past year, 299 deaths being designated as homicides in returns made on death certificates filed with the State Board of Health for 1924. Chicago, with a record of more than a murder per day for the year, maintained the country, but this state ranks well up in the forefront.

Typhoid fever not so long ago was a large factor in the death rate of the state. It has been one of the causes of death against which both state and local health authorities have waged a major offensive. Now murders and automobile accidents each levy a greater annual toll of human life than does this once prevalent and dreaded disease.

The records show more than double the number of negro victims among the homicides as compared with the whites. The distribution is 94 white, 201 negro, and 4 Indian.

The homicides are divided into four classifications. Of the total, 235 were killed with firearms, 47 by knives or other piercing instruments, 6 were babies killed closely following birth, and 11 were killed by other means.—State Board of Health.

CONVICT IS BEATEN TO DEATH

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 16.—Stanley county's notorious prison camp, where they "farm out" convicts for road gang work and ask no questions when a body is thrown in the woods, has probably slaughtered its last prisoner. Because its "big boss," County Road Commissioner C. N. Cranford, stands charged with a murder, and the North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, whose investigation ending Saturday night led to the charge, stands ready to demand an indictment and "clean up" the camp.

On Cranford's hands, asserts the board, is the blood of convict Henry Wooten, who died recently after having been scalded until the blood dripped and then, when he could no longer stand, was tied to a tractor and dragged over the ground while Cranford, it was said, pelted him with rocks.

Prisoners Cite Atrocities

To the Wooten atrocity and others of similar nature, the affidavits of dozens of prisoners testify. The affidavits also show, says Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, head of the welfare department, who returned from a 10-day investigation Saturday night, that Cranford had threatened with punishment any prisoners who dared testify.

Welfare department heads laughed today at Cranford's complaint that he was being made the victim of "political persecution." "There's nothing in that plea," it was immediately reported. "That Stanley camp has been a hot spot for years and we've been on their trail since 1915. Cranford can't wriggle out on any such plea."

Other County Protests

Moore county officials filed the first protests that led to this last investigation. Moore county prisoners "farmed out" to the Stanley county camp, had been returned considerably the worse for wear. The Moore county heads demanded an investigation and Mrs. Johnson's 10-day trip into Western North Carolina resulted.

The Wooten murder was only one of a host of outrages, it was found. Prisoners had been tied up by their arms, or even thumbs, for a day at a time. One prisoner Cranford had tied up by his feet. He denied medical aid to a prisoner with a broken wrist. He let his own "stool pigeons" cudgel convicts at will, while he himself continually beat them.

When the causes for punishment were traced down, it was found that they ranged from "asking for more molasses" to "sleeping in trousers on cold nights." In no case could any redress be sought above Cranford's head.

The state board has compiled the various affidavits into a complete report, which has been filed with Solicitor Don Phillips of the Stanley county judicial district. Stern legal action is being demanded by members of the Race in this section, who are tirtd of seeing "investigations" simmer down without punishment of the guilty.

Suicide Figures Show Surprises.

Is it that the winds of March have a depressing psychological effect which is responsible for more suicides in North Carolina during March than in any other month?

The qeustion is, of course, one that has not been answered. But the fact remains that March led in 1924 in suicides in this State, according to figures compiled by the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Board of Health.

Contrary to general opinion, the hot, sultry months of July and August do not lead in suicides. On the contrary, July and August had fewer suicides last year than any other month, February and November excepted. March leads with 13, May is a close second with 12, and June is third with 11.

Ten people in this state took their own lives during each of the months of September and October; there were nine in January, and the same number in April. July and November each had eight; and August had 7 with November, with six. February, with five, had less than any other month in the year.

The total for the year was 108. Of this number, 32 suicides were urban dwellers, the remainder being people living in the country. This does not show more sucides in the country than in the city, however, it was pointed out at the bureau, as there is a much larger percentable of North Carolina people living in the country than in the towns and cities.

Of the 108 total for the year, 94 were whites; one was an Indian; and 13 were negroes. Sixty-five of the 108 took their lives with fireams.

Crime—1926

North Carolina.

The White Man in Crime

For a year or two the number of white men and boys in the courts of North Carolina has been of a character to constitute a State scandal. Several judges have been moved to make public remark upon the developed situation and yesterday the Observer made quotation from the Stanly News-Herald to the effect that of forty-five cases on the docket of Stanly superior court, forty-three were white men. There were but two negroes involved. Eighteen of the white defendants were under 23 years of age. In former times the criminal part of the court docket was made up almost entirely of negroes. This situation now appears reversed.

And it would seem that liquor cases, abounding as they do, are but incidental. The lawless element of white society runs the catalogue of crime, robberies, burglaries, larceny and murder figuring conspicuously. The whites count more largely in liquor law violations, also, for the conclusion of The News-Letter is that "the whites have more liquor law violations than do the negroes." The burden of crime in the state is manifestly shifted to the shoulders of the white race. the chain gang, notwithstanding. Travelers along highways where convict labor is employed may have remarked upon a circumstance peculiar to this new age in crime. On some of the gangs there are more white people than negroes. If we are to give the negro his due, we must face a hard-boiled admission, and that is, that in proportion to racial population, he has developed into the class of the more law-abiding citizen. This may be because of lack of opportunity, but whatever the cause, it appears to be a fact. And this is because the negro, as a general thing, keeps off liquor. It is hard for him to get it, while the white man not only gets it, but deals in it.—Charlotte Observer.

BLACKS' BETTER RECORD.

A remarkable manifestation of "white supremacy" is recorded in North Carolina. In the superior court of Stanley county, where the criminal docket in former times was made up almost entirely of negroes, the recent term had 45 cases, only two of which were of negroes. Of the 43 white defendants 18 were under 23 years of age. And this situation in Stanley county was not singular, for approximately similar conditions have appeared in the last few years in all sections of the state.

This change in the complexions of those who figure "on the south side of the versus" is not a particular phenomenon; it is so general as to draw sharp deprecations and criticism from many of the presiding judges.

Nor is the change due to the fact that liquor counts largely in the cases because it is more in the competency of the whites to pay moonshine and bootleg prices for crime-breeding booze. The whites run the gamut of offenses, including robberies, burglaries, assaults and murders.

Both the sociologist and the criminologist will be puzzled, we imagine, to explain this extraordinary reversal from the common history of crime in the southern negro-infested areas since emancipation. The Charlotte Observer very frankly says "if we are to give the negro his due we must face a hard-boiled admission, and this is, that in proportion to racial population, he has developed into the class of the more law-abiding citizen."

Whatever the causes may be that have produced this usurpation of the criminal dockets by the whites of North Carolina they manifestly are not operating to the like effect in Georgia or any other southern state of which we have data. And, whatever the explanation may be, the fact that the negroes of North Carolina are boycotting the courts and chain gangs is greatly to their good credit. It encourages the hope that their example will eventually become contagious in the race in all the other states that they largely inhabit.

Nor is the change due to the fact that liquor counts largely in the cases because it is more in the competency of the whites to pay moonshine and bootleg prices for crime-breeding booze. The whites run the gamut of offenses, including robberies, burglaries, assaults and murders.

Both the sociologist and the criminologist will be puzzled, we imagine, to explain this extraordinary reversal from the common history of crime in the southern negro-infested areas since emancipation. The Charlotte Observer very frankly says "if we are to give the negro his due we must face a hard-boiled admission, and this is, that in proportion to racial population, he has developed into the class of the more law-abiding citizen."

Whatever the causes may be that have produced this usurpation of the criminal dockets by the whites of North Carolina they manifestly are not operating to the like effect in Georgia or any other southern state of which we have data. And, whatever the explanation may be, the fact that the negroes of North Carolina are boycotting the courts and chain gangs is greatly to their good credit. It encourages the hope that their example will eventually become contagious in the race in all the other states that they largely inhabit.

ATLANTA, GA., Constitution

MAY 2 - 1926

BLACKS' BETTER RECORD.

A remarkable manifestation of "white supremacy" is recorded in North Carolina. In the superior court of Stanley county, where the criminal docket in former times was made up almost entirely of negroes, the recent term had 45 cases, only two of which were of negroes. Of the 43 white defendants 18 were under 23 years of age. And this situation in Stanley county was not singular, for approximately similar conditions have appeared in the last few years in all sections of the state.

This change in the complexions of those who figure "on the south side of the versus" is not a particular phenomenon; it is so general as to draw sharp deprecations and criticism from many of the presiding judges.

"For a year or two the number of white men and boys in the courts of North Carolina has been of a character to constitute a state scandal. Several judges have been moved to make public remark upon the developed situation and yesterday the Observer made quotation from the Stanly News-Herald to the effect that of forty-five cases on the docket of Stanly superior court, forty-three were white men. There were but two negroes involved. Eighteen of the white defendants were under 23 yars of age. In former times the criminal part of the court docket was made up almost entirely of negroes. This situation now appears reversed."

The sign is most wholesome and the white citizens of all communities should encourage and cooperate with the colored citizens in their effort to better the moral stamina of the negroes and encourage them to become law abiging and substantial citizens. The improvement of the morals and conduct of the negroes will aid in the betterment of the whole community. It is the duty of the white people to lend a helping hand in every way possible to improve, educate and train the negro for good citizenship.

Atlanta, Ga.

1926

THE NEGRO AND CRIME

Statistics show a remarkable improvement in the negro race insofar as committing crime is concerned. In fact, the negroes are growing to be law abiding citizens and those who have accumulated something and become owners of their homes seldom have business of a criminal character in the court houses of the country. North Carolina, especially, has fewer negro violators of the law than whites. Recent years' records show an increase in crime among the whites. While the offenses are not as serious as some criminal offenses committed by negroes, yet in number the white race has shown a marked increase.

The Charlotte (N. C.) Observer, outspokenly relates something of conditions in that state. It says:

MAY 6 1926

THE NEGRO AND CRIME

Millen, Ga., News

Statistics show a remarkable improvement in the negro race insofar as committing crime is concerned. In fact, the negroes are growing to be law abiding citizens and those who have accumplated something and become owners of their homes seldom have business of a criminal character in the court houses of the country. North Carolina, especially, has fewer negro violators of the law than whites. Recent years' records show an increase in crime among the whites. While th eoffenses are not as serious as some criminal offenses committed by negroes, yet in number the white race has shown a marked increase.

The Charlotte (N. C.) Observer, outspokenly relates something of conditions in that state. It says:

"For a year or two the number of white men and boys in the courts of North Carolina has been of a character to constitute a state scandal. Several judges have been moved to make public remarks upon the developed situation and yesterday the Observer made quotations from the Stanley News-Herald to the effect that of forty-five cases on the docket of Stanly superior court, forty-three were white men. There were but two negroes involved. Eighteen of the white defendants were under 21 years of age. In former times the criminal part of the court docket was made up almost entirely of negroes. This situation now appears reversed".

The sign is most wholesome and the white citizens of all communities should encourage and cooperate with the colored citizens in their effort to better the moral stamina of the negroes and encourage them to become law abiding and substantial citizens. The improvement of the morals and conduct of the negroes will aid in the betterment of the whole community. It is the duty of the white people to lend a helping hand in every way possible to improve, educate and train the negro for good citizenship.—Augusta Herald.

CRIME AND AGE GROUPS

Elsewhere in this issue is a table giving the median age of the offenders charged with the more common types of crime in the Superior Courts of North Carolina for the year ending June 30, 1925. The information was tabulated from the reports of the clerk of the court in each of the hundred counties of the state to the Attorney-General's office. In the vast majority of the cases the age reported is the guess of of the clerk. Some of the ages are as given by the offenders. This inexactness in reporting ages will tend to make the median age higher than it really is for offenses showing a low median age, and at the same time it will tend to make the median age lower than it really is for offenses showing a high median age. Assuming that the judgment of the clerk of court will be as accurate for those charged with one type of offense as it is for those charged with any other, the accompanying table may be considered quite reliable and authoritative.

Number of Cases

A total of 14,929 indictments were reported as disposed of by the Superior Courts of North Carolina during the fiscal year indicated above. The age was reported in only 13,464 of those cases. The median age of those reported was 28.34 years. In other words, half of the indictments in North Carolina Superior Courts during that year were 28 years and 4 months of age or older. This may come as a surprise because we have heard so much about the extreme youthfulness of modern criminals. However, it must be remembered that they were several months younger than this when apprehended, if the usual rate of judicial procedure be taken into consideration. Furthermore, the lower courts handle a majority of first offenses, and would no doubt show a much lower median age for their offenders.

Youth and Housebreaking

The accompanying table shows that housebreaking is the type of offense indulged in by the most youthful group of offenders. Approximately 40 percent of those charged with housebreaking were white, and the median age of the whites is somewhat lower than that of the negroes, although the tabulation does not show how much lower. Next in order comes burglary and then larceny and receiving, all of which are crimes against property and crimes which occur more frequently in the city than in the country. At the same time, the three types of offenses showing the highest median age are those more often committed by country people.

It is interesting to notice the order of median ages for the various offenses. One wonders if it is by chance that carrying a concealed weapon, robbery, and homicide follow one another in one, two, three order; or that prostitution, seduction, and rape likewise follow in close order. (See Table.) Queer, too, that abduction, adultery, and bigamy follow in close order. These are perhaps coincidences, but the main sequence is significant at any rate.

Prohibition

It is of interest to note that those apprehended for violation of the prohibition law are, on the average, nearly three years older than those apprehended for other offenses. Although this is true for the state as a whole, it is not true for some counties—those counties in which violation of this law is most fashionable; among the chief of which is Mecklenburg.

Another interesting fact not indicated in the table is that, in general, those crimes which are on the increase show a lowering of the median age and vice versa. Among those crimes on the increase are burglary, robbery, housebreaking, larceny, and driving while drunk, all of which show a lowering of the median age from 1924 to 1925.

It is on those crimes which show either a numerical increase or a lowering of the median age in those committing them, that those interested in reducing crime should especially concentrate their attention. It is in indicating these trends in crime that such facts as are given in the accompanying table have their practical value.—F. S. Wilder.

Convict Boss Held Responsible For Negro's Death

Albemarle, N. C., July 16.—(AP)—Further testimony intended to show that Nevin C. Cranford, former convict boss, on trial for the murder of two negro convicts, was guilty of cruel and inhumane treatment toward the convicts was heard today.

Cal Vester Leake, negro and former convict who was the first witness today, testified that John Quincy Leake, a convict, had been whipped.

The witness said Cranford told him to make a ring in the road and whip Leake until he was told to stop. Leake said he whipped the convict until he fell and that Cranford said he was not whipping him hard enough.

"Cranford then hit me," the witness said.

"That night Leake was trying eat," the witness continued, "who Cranford saw he was not eating lik the rest of us and he picked up root and knocked him out of his seat. John Quincy crawled in the house where he slept and he never touched another mouthful of food."

"What hapened then?" the solicitor asked.

"John Quincy died that night."

Ack Leake, negro, the next witness, testified that when he was sent to the roads 16 or 17 years ago, he was shackled in such a manner that his ankles became covered with sores. He exhibited scars, some several inches long, on his back which he said had been caused by whippings he had received.

The witness said on another occasion he was beaten because he had a handkerchief tied around his neck which he said Cranford called "dudish." The handkerchief was squeezed until blood flowed out of his nose and ears, he stated.

White Prisoners In North Carolina Outnumber Negroes By Goodly Margin

Greensboro, N. C.—The monthly report of Jailer R. W. Dallas, submitted to the State Board of Health, shows that of the 234 prisoners in the Guilford County Jail during June, 143 were whites as against 91 Negroes.

There were 21 white male prisoners under 21 years of age, with 22 Negroes in the same class, but 7 of the Negroes are trusties, performing various tasks about the county building, so that only 17 are actually incarcerated.

Only 21 of the 234 men and women are over 40 years of age, showing that most of the law infractions are committed by the younger generation of both races. Auto stealing and whiskey violations comprise the majority of the cases.

The monthly reports submitted from other North Carolina counties show a similar ratio, with the whites taking the lead in criminal activities. This is in striking contrast to conditions which obtained a few years ago, when the figures showed Negro prisoners in jails and in convict camps to be of a lopsided majority.

And it is declared by those in position to know that the southern states show the same condition.

Albemarle, N. C., Press

JUL 22 1926

A few years back, it was the Negro youth who filled our prisons. Today, the white youth is taking his place under a largely increased ratio. It is an open question as to how far the lash can be spared without spoiling the child. There is a restraining influence about the lash more potent than all other methods of punishment. Whether the child controlled through fear of this sort of punishment is robbed of some of the natural elements of real manhood or not is a part of the mooted question. If there is no good substitute for the lash, it might really be better to save the child even at the expense of abusing some pet theory.

Crimes—1925

New York.

UNITED STATES OF HOMICIDIA.

Americans have just been praising themselves on Thanksgiving Day. We are the greatest, richest, most generous—except to debtor nations—finest, most virtuous people in the world. Still, some of us might be willing to admit that we are a little quick on the trigger. Perhaps Professor POUND'S "pioneer" theory of our courts has its continual contemporary justification. Readers of Thanksgiving proclamations, prosperous men and women, full of turkey, optimism and essential Pharisaism, are hereby invited to read "The Homicide Problem." It is a collection of papers, often referred to in THE TIMES, by Dr. HOFFMAN, consulting statistician of the Prudential Insurance Company.

Of the inaccuracy and incompleteness of American statistics of crime he has long complained. For the collection of uniform judicial statistics of indictments, crimes, convictions, sentences, he has long asked. Meanwhile, among many registrars of our little national peculiarity, he has come to be regarded as one of the most trustworthy. We shall not go into the details of the unrivaled American record in violence and murder; nor try to award among our cities the crown of honor. We merely ask Narcissus to look at himself in a mirror that doesn't flatter. "There is no question of doubt," Mr. HOFFMAN writes, "that the annual toll of murder now exceeds 11,000." In 1922 there was one homicide in England and Wales for sixteen in this happier land. In 1923 the Australians killed only one man for every five in this more enlightened country.

As might be suspected, Japan is painfully reactionary. Her homicide rate is only a tenth or an eleventh of ours. Such is the deficiency of a late induction into "Caucasian civilization." We quote a few figures:

> In 1922 the homicidal death rate of the United States Registration Area was 8.4 per 100,000 of population, while in the registration States the rate between 1910 and 1920 increased from 5.9 to 7.9. By way of contrast it may be pointed out that the homicide rate of England and Wales, compiled in practically the same manner, was only 0.5 per 100,000 for 1922 and 0.6 for 1923. In other words, to every one death from homicide in England and Wales there occurred proportionately about sixteen in this country!
>
> In Scotland in 1923, among a population of not quite 5,000,000, there occurred only eleven deaths from homicide, or at the rate of 0.2 per 100,000 of population. The population of Massachusetts for 1923 was not quite 4,000,000 and the deaths from homicide 107, or at the rate of 2.5 per 100,000. In other words, there were about twelve times as many deaths from homicide in Massachusetts as in Scotland.
>
> In the Province of Ontario in 1923, among a population of a little over 3,000,000, the number of deaths from homicide was forty-nine, representing a rate of 1.6, which compares with a rate of 2.5 for Massachusetts and 8.4 for the United States Registration Area for 1922.

In short, we are good killers. Our harbingers of enlightenment, our broadcasters of blessings, our sweet panegyrists of ourselves, must "let the good work go on." What is equality? What is fraternity? What is liberty? After all theories, what is privilege? In the United States to kill your brother and "get away with it."

Negro Held for Arson In Blaze at Jamaica

BROOKLYN N. Y. EAGLE
DECEMBER 24, 1925

Robert Moon, a 47-year-old negro laborer, who lives at 3 Rex rd., Jamaica, was arrested last night on a charge of arson following a suspicious fire in the house in which he lives early yesterday morning.

The building is owned by Nathaniel Arrington, who was awakened by the smoke and aroused his housekeeper and her boy. They were unable to get out the front of the house as the entire front porch was ablaze. Firemen managed to confine the flames to the front of the house.

An investigation conducted by Fire Marshal Brophy and the police disclosed that the fire had started at one corner of the front porch.

Crime — 1923. New York.

3 MEN IN BLACKFACE RAID BANKER'S HOME

One Tries to Hold Up Wife and Daughter of E. J. Sullivan in West New Brighton.

YOUTH IS CAUGHT AT FERRY

Small Boy's Description of Car Leads to Arrest 10 Minutes After Crime.

A youth alleged to be one of three who tried to hold up the home of Edward J. Sullivan, importer and banker, at 363 Bement Avenue, West New Brighton, S. I., yesterday afternoon, was captured ten minutes later attempting to drive a stolen automobile into the municipal ferry house at St. George. The youth, who said he was Richard McNamara, 20, of 46 West Sixty-fifth Street, was arrested by Policeman Daniel Quinlan of the St. George station on the strength of a description of the automobile furnished to the police by Mrs. Sullivan a few minutes before by telephone.

McNamara, according to the policeman, was wiping minstrels' blacking from his face, when he jumped on the running board with drawn pistol and placed the youth under arrest. The capture was made possible through the alertness of an eight-year-old boy, a neighbor of the Sullivans, who had noticed that the front license plate of the robber's car was dangling, so that only the first part of its number—K5—was visible.

When McNamara was taken to the Detective Bureau in St. George Police Headquarters and confronted by the boy who had seen the car he was alleged to have, said he was a nephew of Mr. Sullivan and to have revealed the identity of his two aleged confederates and thep lan to rob the Sullivan home.

Wife and Daughter Were Alone.

Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter, Miss Julia, 19 years old, were alonei n the Sullivan home shortly after 4 P. M., when Mrs. Sullivan was called to the telephone by a man who represented himself as an employe of the post office at St. George. The man told Mrs. Sullivan that he had a package to deliver and asked if itw ould be convenient to cal with it in the next fifteen minutes.

Mrs. Sullivan acquiesced and soon an automobile containing what appeared to be three young negroes drew up under the large tree at the corner of Delefield and Bement Avenues, about 150 feet from the Sullivan home. A group of children playing on the sidewalk near by were attracted by the strange appearance of the three youths and some of them, after running up close to the automobile, shouted to their companions: "These boys are nto negroes; they'retonly fooling."

One of the youths jumped out of the car, however, and carried a huge package to the rear door of the Sullivan home. Miss Sullivan answered the doorbell. The youth told her she would have to sign a receipt, which he presented, and she asked him inside. Miss Sullivan took the receipt into the drawing room, while her mother stood on the landing of the stairway half way up to the second floor.

As the girl was coming back to the youth with the receipt her mother heard him say: "Throw up your hands—if you scream I'll shoot." Mrs. Sullivan then ran downstairs to find the youth pointing ap istol at her daughter. The youth wheeled around on her with the weapon and commanded her to throw up her hands, at the same time excitedly commanding the girl to "pack up that silverware in that cabinet."

Instead of complying with the command Mrs. Sullivan ran up the stairs and called for the police through the window of a rear room. The intruder,

3 MEN IN BLACKFACE RAID BANKER'S HOME

Continued from Page 1, Column 7.

alarmed, turned and ran through the rear door to the yard and to the automobile in which his two black-faced confederates were seated.

As the car shot ahead down Delafield Avenue, a little boy ran up the stoop of the Sullivan home, and shouted: "I've got the number of their car—call up the police." Mrs. Sullivan immediately called up Police Headquarters at St. George, and told them the part of the license number the boy had noted on a piece of paper.

Policeman Quinlan, on duty at the ferry, received an alarm a fey minutes later to be on the alert for a youth daubed with blacking and driving a car, whose license began with "K-5." A moment later McNamara came driving toward himy, wiping blacking from his face. The policeman arrested him.

The policeman searched him and found him unarmed, but in a side pocket of the car he found two loaded pistols. In an adjoining pocket was a can of minstrels' blacking. McNamara was taken first to Police Headquarters and then to the Sullivan home, where the detectives said, Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter admitted they knew him, but declared he was not the youth who had invaded their home. After the youth was confronted by the boy who had observed the license number, the police alleged he confessed he participated in the hold-up.

McNamara, the detectives said, explained that he and the other two youths reached the island in the automobile a half hour before the holdup and purchased the face blacking at a drug store on Victory Boulevard. They drove into a side street and smeared their faces, he said, and then went to the Sullivan home.

The prisoner was alleged to have said that he remained in the car with the driver, who kept the engine going, because he feared he might be recognized by Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter of he actually participaated in the hold-up. When they were fleeing after the robbery attempt broke down, his companions, who had urged him to drive the car, threw their postols into the side pockett of the car and leaped out at Borough Hall, St. George, a minute or two before his arrest.

Detectives said the automobile in which McNamara was arrested had been stolen in the afternoon from Francis Schlein in front of his home at 61 East Eighth Street, Manhattan.

McNamara was locked up on charges of participating in the hold-up, having the two pistols in his possession and stealing the automobile. He will be arraigned in the New Brighton Magistrate's Court this morning.

The Nassau County police yesterday arrested three youths whom they charged with stealing several thousand dollars worth of antiques and other property from estates near Roslyn, L. I., including those of John Sergeant Cram and Francis J. Gravin. They confessed, according to the police, and most of the stolen property has been traced. The police said that the youths did not belong to the band of thieves that has been robbing the residences of numerous wealthy people in the county, and that they did not break into any homes, but stole only from storehouses and barns.

The three were Arnold Vogel, son of the superintendent at the Garvin estate; Nicholas Zweigart of Roslyn and Charls A. Mackey of Locust Valley. Justice of the Peace Andrew Westervelt of Roslyn held all three without bail for the action of the Grand Jury. They were lodged in the Nassau County jail at Mineola.

After they were arrested at their homes, the police said, the youths admitted having carried on their thefts for several months. They removed the goods in an automobile and sold the antiques to dealers in New York, receiving only a few hundred dollars for them. From the Carpenter estate in Locust Valley, they admitted they took a sun dial, some copper wire and several antiques. What the antiques were, the police did not reveal.

The police said that the three also confessed to having stolen three antique chairs, 300 pounds of lead cable and some lead pipe from a storehouse on the John Sergeant Cram estate at Wheatley Hills.

From the Garvin estate, where Vogel's father is Superintendent, the police said that they confessed to having taken a number of picture frames and a statue of the Madonna and Child, valued at $600. They sold the statue to a New York art dealer for $15, according to the police, who did not give out the dealer's name.

BLACKED HIS FACE THEN ATTEMPTED TO ROB HIS AUNT

Manhattan White Man Goes To Staten Island, Masks As Negro, To Steal

Richard McNamara, a white man, of 26 West 65th street, disguised himself as a Negro by smearing his face with burnt cork, and then, with two companions, went to the home of his aunt Mrs. Edith J. Sullivan, 362 Bement avenue West Brighton, Staten Island, and held up Mrs. Sullivan and her 18-year old daughter, Julie, at the point of a pistol and attempted to steal their jewelry and money.

An unidentified boy, on the outside, chanced to make a note of the automobile license number, with the consequence that two hours later police officers picked up McNamara at the St. George ferry terminal. He was still blackened. A search discovered a supply of burnt cork, and two revolvers. When his face had been washed, and he was confronted by Mrs. Sullivan, he was intentified by her as a 22-year old nepew. His companions had disappeared, but the police have their names.

The police have for several weeks been looking for a supposed "Negro" hold-up man, and belive that in arresting McNamara they have solved the riddle.

Crimes involving race strife for the last 25 years have been most frequent during economic depression in the south, says Dr. Robert R. Moton, successor to the late Booker T. Washington as head of Tuskegee institute.

Crime Is Not Abolished.

Claims that the use of the whipping post in Delaware has much reduced the numbers of crimes and almost abolished crimes of some sorts are not sustained by the latest statistics from that State. The fact is, apparently, that Delaware's population still contains its full share of bad folk, in spite of the lashings that some of them get and that menace those who commit any one of something like a score of offenses. Certain forms of criminality even seem to be increasing.

Meanwhile the State gets an undesirable reputation as perpetuating within its borders a form of punishment which almost everywhere else is held to be ineffectual as well as cruel, and degrading both to those who apply it and to those who suffer it.

To maintain that flogging is reformative for either adults or minors is to contradict the conclusions of all modern penologists and of all agents who are accessible to modern ideas. That it is punitive nobody doubts, but that it is deterrent remains highly questionable.

Would that the time might come when the punishment of crime could receive less attention, since we do it very badly at best, and the prevention of it could get more! A large majority of the earth's inhabitants succeed without any apparent trouble in escaping all conflict with the law. If the conditions that create that majority were extended, the result might be better than those from any imaginable system of punishment for lawbreakers.

Prison Terms of 20 Years Imposed Upon Barbarians Who Beat Negroes to Death

TARBORO, June 8.—Twenty years manslaughter, and at 6:15 were sen- at hard labor in the State's prison, the tenced.

maximum sentence for the slaughter. In passing sentence upon the two was imposed upon C. Gulley, fore- man Judge Sinclair was scathing in his convict camp, and B. W. Tyler, a half in diameter and five feet long, and charged with beating Joe Armstrong, a Negro convict, to death, when they threw themselves upon the mercy of Judge N. A. Sinclair here this afternoon they were arraigned and immediately entered a plea of guilty of

Directed by telegraph by Judge Sinclair to reconvene this morning, the Edgecombe county grand jury took the indictment sent up by Solicitor Don Gilliam and within an hour had returned a true bill for murder against the two men. At 3 o'clock this afternoon they were arraigned and immediately entered a plea of guilty of

Claims that the use of the whipping post in Delaware has much reduced the numbers of crimes and almost abolished crimes of some sorts are not sustained by the latest statistics from that State. The fact is, apparently, that Delaware's population still contains its full share of bad folk, in spite of the lashings that some of them get and that menace those who commit any one of something like a score of offenses. Certain forms of criminality even seem to be increasing.

Meanwhile the State gets an undesirable reputation as perpetuating within its borders a form of punishment which almost everywhere else is held to be ineffectual as well as cruel, and degrading both to those who apply it and to those who suffer it.

To maintain that flogging is reformative for either adults or minors is to contradict the conclusions of all modern penologists and of all agents who are accessible to modern ideas. That it is punitive nobody doubts, but that it is deterrent remains highly questionable.

Would that the time might come when the punishment of crime could receive less attention, since we do it very badly at best, and the prevention of it could get more! A large majority of the earth's inhabitants succeed without any apparent trouble in escaping all conflict with the law. If the conditions that create that majority were extended, the result might be better than those from any imaginable system of punishment for lawbreakers.

Prison Terms of 20 Years Imposed Upon Barbarians Who Beat Negroes to Death

TARBORO, June 8.—Twenty years manslaughter, and at 6:15 were sen- at hard labor in the State's prison, the tenced.

maximum sentence for the slaughter. In passing sentence upon the two was imposed upon C. Gulley, fore- man Judge Sinclair was scathing in his convict camp, and B. W. Tyler, a half in diameter and five feet long, and charged with beating Joe Armstrong, a Negro convict, to death, when they threw themselves upon the mercy of Judge N. A. Sinclair here this afternoon they were arraigned and immediately entered a plea of guilty of

Directed by telegraph by Judge Sinclair to reconvene this morning, the Edgecombe county grand jury took the indictment sent up by Solicitor Don Gilliam and within an hour had returned a true bill for murder against the two men. At 3 o'clock this afternoon they were arraigned and immediately entered a plea of guilty of

Claims that the use of the whipping post in Delaware has much reduced the numbers of crimes and almost abolished crimes of some sorts are not sustained by the latest statistics from that State. The fact is, apparently, that Delaware's population still contains its full share of bad folk, in spite of the lashings that some of them get and that menace those who commit any one of something like a score of offenses. Certain forms of criminality even seem to be increasing.

Meanwhile the State gets an undesirable reputation as perpetuating within its borders a form of punishment which almost everywhere else is held to be ineffectual as well as cruel, and degrading both to those who apply it and to those who suffer it.

To maintain that flogging is reformative for either adults or minors is to contradict the conclusions of all modern penologists and of all agents who are accessible to modern ideas. That it is punitive nobody doubts, but that it is deterrent remains highly questionable.

Would that the time might come when the punishment of crime could receive less attention, since we do it very badly at best, and the prevention of it could get more! A large majority of the earth's inhabitants succeed without any apparent trouble in escaping all conflict with the law. If the conditions that create that majority were extended, the result might be better than those from any imaginable system of punishment for lawbreakers.

Crime — 1923.

New York.

3 MEN IN BLACKFACE RAID BANKER'S HOME

One Tries to Hold Up Wife and Daughter of E. J. Sullivan in West New Brighton.

YOUTH IS CAUGHT AT FERRY

Small Boy's Description of Car Leads to Arrest 10 Minutes After Crime.

A youth alleged to be one of three who tried to hold up the home of Edward J. Sullivan, importer and banker, at 363 Bement Avenue, West New Brighton, S. I., yesterday afternoon, was captured ten minutes later attempting to drive a stolen automobile into the municipal ferry house at St. George. The youth, who said he was Richard McNamara, 20, of 46 West Sixty-fifth Street, was arrested by Policeman Daniel Quinlan of the St. George station on the strength of a description of the automobile furnished to the police by Mrs. Sullivan a few minutes before by telephone.

McNamara, according to the policeman, was wiping minstrels' blacking from his face, when he jumped on the running board with drawn pistol and placed the youth under arrest. The capture was made possible through the alertness of an eight-year-old boy, a neighbor of the Sullivans, who had noticed that the front license plate of the robber's car was dangling, so that only the first part of its number—K5—was visible.

When McNamara was taken to the Detective Bureau in St. George Police Headquarters and confronted by the boy who had seen the car he was alleged to have, said he was a nephew of Mr. Sullivan and to have revealed the identity of his two aleged confederates and thep lan to rob the Sullivan home.

Wife and Daughter Were Alone.

Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter, Miss Julia, 19 years old, were alonei n the Sullivan home shortly after 4 P. M. when Mrs. Sullivan was called to the telephone by a man who represented himself as an employe of the post office at St. George. The man told Mrs. Sullivan that he had a package to deliver and asked if itw ould be convenient to call with it in the next fifteen minutes.

Mrs. Sullivan acquiesced and soon an automobile containing what appeared to be three young negroes drew up under the large tree at the corner of Delefield and Bement Avenues, about 150 feet from the Sullivan home. A group of children playing on the sidewalk near by were attracted by the strange appearance of the three youths and some of them, after running up close to the automobile, shouted to their companions: "These boys are nto negroes; they're only fooling."

One of the youths jumped out of the car, however, and carried a huge package to the rear door of the Sullivan home. Miss Sullivan answered the doorbell. The youth told her she would have to sign a receipt, which he presented, and she asked him inside. Miss Sullivan took the receipt into the drawing room, while her mother stood on the landing of the stairway half way up to the second floor.

As the girl was coming back to the youth with the receipt her mother heard him say: "Throw up your hands—if you scream I'll shoot." Mrs. Sullivan then ran downstairs to find the youth pointing ap istol at her daughter. The youth wheeled around on her with the weapon and commanded her to throw up her hands, at the same time excitedly commanding the girl to "pack up that silverware in that cabinet."

Instead of complying with the command Mrs. Sullivan ran up the stairs and called for the police through the window of a rear room. The intruder,

3 MEN IN BLACKFACE RAID BANKER'S HOME

Continued from Page 1, Column 7.

alarmed, turned and ran through the rear door to the yard and to the automobile in which his two black-faced confederates were seated.

As the car shot ahead down Delafield Avenue, a little boy ran up the stoop of the Sullivan home, and shouted: "I've got the number of their car—call up the police." Mrs. Sullivan immediately called up Police Headquarters at St. George, and told them the part of the license number the boy had noted on a piece of paper.

Policeman Quinlan, on duty at the ferry, received an alarm a few minutes later to be on the alert for a youth daubed with blacking and driving a car, whose license began with "K-5." A moment later McNamara came driving toward himy, wiping blacking from his face. The policeman arrested him.

The policeman searched him and found him unarmed, but in a side pocket of the car he found two loaded pistols. In an adjoining pocket was a can of minstrels' blacking. McNamara was taken first to Police Headquarters and then to the Sullivan home, where the detectives said, Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter admitted they knew him, but declared he was not the youth who had invaded their home. After the youth was confronted by the boy who had observed the license number, the police alleged he confessed he participated in the hold-up.

McNamara, the detectives said, explained that he and the other two youths reached the island in the automobile a half hour before the holdup and purchased the face blacking at a drug store on Victory Boulevard. They drove into a side street and smeared their faces, he said, and then went to the Sullivan home.

The prisoner was alleged to have said that he remained in the car with the driver, who kept the engine going, because he feared he might be recognized by Mrs. Sullivan and her daughter of he actually participaated in the hold-up. When they were fleeing after the robbery attempt broke down, his companions, who had urged him to drive the car, threw their postols into the side pockett of the car and leaped out at Borough Hall, St. George, a minute or two before his arrest.

Detectives said the automobile in which McNamara was arrested had been stolen in the afternoon from Francis Schlein in front of his home at 61 East Eighth Street, Manhattan.

McNamara was locked up on charges of participating in the hold-up, having the two pistols in his possession and stealing the automobile. He will be arraigned in the New Brighton Magistrate's Court this morning.

The Nassau County police yesterday arrested three youths whom they charged with stealing several thousand dollars worth of antiques and other property from estates near Roslyn, L. I., including those of John Sergeant Cram and Francis J. Gravin. They confessed, according to the police, and most of the stolen property has been traced. The police said that the youths did not belong to the band of thieves that has been robbing the residences of numerous wealthy people in the county, and that they did not break into any homes, but stole only from storehouses and barns.

The three were Arnold Vogel, son of the superintendent at the Garvin estate; Nicholas Zweigart of Roslyn and Charls A. Mackey of Locust Valley. Justice of the Peace Andrew Westervelt of Roslyn held all three without bail for the action of the Grand Jury. They were lodged in the Nassau County jail at Mineola.

After they were arrested at their homes, the police said, the youths admitted having carried on their thefts for several months. They removed the goods in an automobile and sold the antiques to dealers in New York, receiving only a few hundred dollars for them. From the Carpenter estate in Locust Valley, they admitted they took a sun dial, some copper wire and several antiques. What the antiques were, the police did not reveal.

The police said that the three also confessed to having stolen three antique chairs, 300 pounds of lead cable and some lead pipe from a storehouse on the John Sergeant Cram estate at Wheatley Hills.

From the Garvin estate, where Vogel's father is Superintendent, the police said that they confessed to having taken a number of picture frames and a statue of the Madonna and Child, valued at $600. They sold the statue to a New York art dealer for $15, according to the police, who did not give out the dealer's name.

BLACKED HIS FACE THEN ATTEMPTED TO ROB HIS AUNT

Manhattan White Man Goes To Staten Island, Masks As Negro, To Steal

Richard McNamara, a white man, of 26 West 65th street, disguised himself as a Negro by smearing his face with burnt cork, and then, with two companions, went to the home of his aunt Mrs. Edith J. Sullivan, 362 Bement avenue West Brighton, Staten Island, and held up Mrs. Sullivan and her 18-year old daughter, Julie, at the point of a pistol and attempted to steal their jewelry and money.

An unidentified boy, on the outside, chanced to make a note of the automobile license number, with the consequence that two hours later police officers picked up McNamara at the St. George ferry terminal. He was still blackened. A search discovered a supply of burnt cork, and two revolvers. When his face had been washed, and he was confronted by Mrs. Sullivan, he was intentified by her as a 22-year old nepew. His companions had disappeared, but the police have their names.

The police have for several weeks been looking for a supposed "Negro" hold-up man, and belive that in arresting McNamara they have solved the riddle.

NEW

Crimes involving race strife for the last 25 years have been most frequent during economic depression in the south, says Dr. Robert R. Moton, successor to the late Booker T. Washington as head of Tuskegee institute.

Crime Is Not Abolished.

Claims that the use of the whipping post in Delaware has much reduced the numbers of crimes and almost abolished crimes of some sorts are not sustained by the latest statistics from that State. The fact is, apparently, that Delaware's population still contains its full share of bad folk, in spite of the lashings that some of them get and that menace those who commit any one of something like a score of offenses. Certain forms of criminality even seem to be increasing.

Meanwhile the State gets an undesirable reputation as perpetuating within its borders a form of punishment which almost everywhere else is held to be ineffectual as well as cruel, and degrading both to those who apply it and to those who suffer it.

To maintain that flogging is reformative for either adults or minors is to contradict the conclusions of all modern penologists and of all agents who are accessible to modern ideas. That it is punitive nobody doubts, but that it is deterrent remains highly questionable.

Would that the time might come when the punishment of crime could receive less attention, since we do it very badly at best, and the prevention of it could get more! A large majority of the earth's inhabitants succeed without any apparent trouble in escaping all conflict with the law. If the conditions that create that majority were extended, the result might be better than those from any imaginable system of punishment for lawbreakers.

Prison Terms of 20 Years Imposed Upon Barbarians Who Beat Negroes to Death

TARBORO, June 8.—Twenty years' imprisonmen[t] at hard labor in the State's prison, the[n] maximum sentence for manslaughter, [was] imposed upon C. C. Gulley, fore-[man] of the Rocky Mount road district, [a] convict camp, and B. V. Tyler, a guard, charged with beating Joe Armstrong, a Negro convict, to death, when they brought threw themselves upon the mercy of Judge N. A. Sinclair here this afternoon.

Directed by telegraph by Judge Sinclair to reconvene this morning, the Edgecombe county grand jury took the indictment sent up by Solicitor Dunn Gilliam and within an hour had returned a true bill for murder against the two men. At 3 o'clock this afternoon they were arraigned and immediately entered a plea of guilty of manslaughter, and at 6:15 were sentenced.

In passing sentence upon the two principally responsible for the slaughter, Judge Sinclair was scathing in his denunciation of the crime for which he was about to sentence them, declaring that they, as officers of the law, had brought contempt upon the law by wooden handle. The beating lasted for about a half hour. Tyler turned the handle on the Negro before the beating was finished, the witnesses declared.

Both physicians testified that the body was horribly beaten, with bruises over it, and several severe abrasions on the head. The whole beating was responsible.

Gulley, who was foreman of the convict gang, used a stick an inch and a half in diameter and five feet long, and Tyler used a strap with a heavy

SOUTHERN PAPER CONDEMNS KILLERS OF PRISON CONVICT

BROOKLYN STANDARD UNION
JULY 22, 1925

NEW YORK, June 18—Demand for remedy of conditions prevailing in North Carolina prison camps, is voiced by the Greensboro Daily News as the result of the brutal flogging resulting in death, administered by two white guards to a Negro who had been committed for 30 days on a vagrancy charge at Rocky Mount Camp, N. C.

The Greensboro Daily News heads its editorial on the two white guards, who have been sentenced to 20 years in jail, "A Pair of Abysmal Brutes," and says in part:

"According to the evidence it would hardly be possible to find on earth or elsewhere any person to whom such responsibility could less properly be entrusted than this pair of murderous degenerates. One of their wards they both beat for a period of about 30 minutes, one apparently using a heavy cudgel while the other plied a whip. If he had not fallen to the ground under their blows, they threw or knocked him down after, and either invented or adapted one of the most brutal cruelties of the dark ages. Heavily shackled, he was hitched to a pair of mules and dragged for some 75 yards. The victim was ordered to get up, and failing to comply, received another blow from the fist of one of the men. He made a feeble attempt to rise, fell again and died in half an hour. It was a devilish fortuity which brought these two loathsome creatures together in the opportunity to sicken the State."

In another editorial the Greensboro Daily News states: "Sooner or later North Carolina will be forced to recognize the fact that the prison camp system as it now prevails must be overhauled in its entirety and possibly thrown away altogether."

Negro Delegation Protesting to District Attorney

Graphic Syndicate Photo

Photo shows group of citizens in office of County Prosecutor Charles A. Dodd making protest against alleged unwarranted arrest of colored persons. Left to right are: The Rev. Henry H. Proctor, Mrs. M. C. Lawton, Assistant District Attorney Sullivan, Mr. Dodd, the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, R. Alwyn Austin and J. R. Clark.

THIS IS NEW YORK, NOT VIRGINIA

TO THE CREDIT of Attorney William L. Patterson, the citizens of Staten Island and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Judge J. Harry Tiernan will forever and eternally have to explain what he meant when in sentencing a colored man who had been convicted of a crime, he felt moved to voice his reflection upon the penalty for such a crime in Virginia.

THE PRISONER, Elijah Barrett, was indicted for assault in the first degree, but the jury after listening to the evidence in the case used its prerogative of finding him guilty in the second degree. The jury was composed of white men who, we have every reason to believe, weighed the evidence in the case with fairness and without regard to colors of the accused man or the woman he was charged with assaulting. As a matter of fact, though, the woman concerned was white, the man colored, and we need speculate no further as to the degree of Barrett's guilt.

IN BARRETT'S particular case, fortunately, Judge Tiernan is limited by law. He must sentence him in accordance with the law for assault in the second degree and stomach his own preconceived ideas as to what his penalty SHOULD be. But think of how inimicable Judge Tiernan would be in the Magistrate's Court, where there are no juries; or as a referee in a matter affecting colored and white litigants; or as a Justice of the Court of Appeals. These are the possibilities we must consider in condemning his utterances and aiding in his impeachment should we ever have the opportunity. If he has more respect for the way the law is administered in Virginia than the way his fellow citizens administer it in New York, he should make his home in the former State. New York may well afford to wear along without him.

Crime - 1925

Pennsylvania.

ITTSBURG, PA. TIMES
APRIL 13, 1925

EAST END STORE HELD UP AS PROMENADERS WATCH

ROB JEWELRY WINDOW

Police of Two Districts in Battles With Bandit Suspects. Automobile Thefts.

With pistols drawn, two Negro bandits yesterday afternoon in view of Easter promenaders, entered the confectionery store at 231 Larimer avenue, East Liberty, held up the proprietor, Alfonso Nardo, and escaped in an automobile with $55.

Two accomplices occupied the bandits' machine, parked in front of the shop during the holdup, which was staged so quickly that the machine was speeding away before pedestrians had an opportunity to sound an alarm.

Three of the alleged bandits were arrested later and are being held without bail on suspicious person charges in the Frankstown avenue station. They gave their names as Andrew Brown, aged 25, of Mignonette street; A. Struthers, aged 21, of Lowell street, and George Harris, aged 32, of Carver street.

Struthers and Harris were taken in East Liberty by city detectives soon after the holdup. Brown and two other Negroes were arrested later in an automobile in Highland Park. The machine was the one used by the holdupmen, according to police.

The two others are Ernest Carmen, aged 31, of North St. Clair street, and Marshall Johnston, aged 21, of Connellsville, Pa. They were later released on their own recognizance. It was said that Carmen is the owner of the automobile used by the bandits. He had loaned it to the suspects without knowledge of what use was to be made of it, police learned. Police also established the fact that Johnston had entered the automobile long after the holdup.

Nardo was alone in the store when the two gunmen entered, pointed their revolvers and compelled him to open the cash register.

One of the Negroes extracted the contents and with a warning to the proprietor fled into the waiting automobile, which sped away.

Two hold-ups, the smashing of a central city jewelry store window, and a series of minor larcenies and burglaries early yesterday marked the resumption of activity by bandits and thieves after a comparatively quiet week.

Four bandits touring West Philadelphia in an automobile held up two butchers shortly after 1 A. M. and stole $50 from one and were frightened away from the other by the screams of a woman. Louis Furstein, No. 5607 Catherine street, told the police of the new Fourth district that two armed men came into his store with guns and demanded his money. He said another stood by the door of his butcher shop while a fourth sat in the bandit machine outside.

"Put up your hands and be quick about it," one of the thugs commanded. While the frightened butcher was held at bay in a corner of his shop one of the bandits took $50 from the cash register. They then departed after warning Furstein not to raise an alarm.

Fled When Woman Screamed.

A short time later the same bandits entered the butcher shop of Louis Weintraub, No. 1115 North Forty-second street, and demanded money from the butcher and his sister, Mollie, who was helping him in the store at the time. The thugs were put to flight when Mrs. Weintraub, who had been upstairs, saw the armed men and screamed.

Jewelry valued at $800 was stolen by window smashers who hurled a piece of iron wrapped in paper through the display window of the jewelry store of Nathan Simon, No. 1531 Chestnut street. Rings, watches and gems formed the loot. The robbery was disgovered by a partolman. No one reported having heard the crash.

The police of the Twelfth and Twenty-fifth districts fought three bandit suspects early yesterday. They were sighted in the Twelfth district in a machine without license tags. The police say they were stripping parked automobiles of tires and accessories. When an officer approached they jumped into their car and sped away. Twenty-fifth district policemen also attempted to arrest them. Many shots were fired but the suspects got away. Two officers narrowly escaped serious injury when the thieves tried to run them down.

Charged with the theft of dresses valued at $250 from a Market street department store, John Walsh, of Mervine street near Race, and Charles Owens, Poplar street near Fifteenth, were arrested yesterday.

Robbers Took Easter Eggs.

Easter eggs valued at $14 formed the loot of intruders who entered the store of Wallace & Ford, Mascher street and Columbia avenue. Tires valued at $35 were stolen from the automobile of L. C. Alter, No. 5711 Wistar street. Burglars who forced a door to gain entrance stole gems and clothing valued at several hundred dollars from the home of Robert J. Wright, No. 2336 West Cumberland street. Furs valued at $13 were stolen from the home of Jesse Schultz, No. 1834 North Seventeenth street.

The police of the Fifteenth district are looking for two colored men who broke into the residence of Frederick Black, No. 203 West Indiana avenue yesterday afternoon, and stole $100. The intruders were seen leaving the house by neighbors, who notified the police.

Clothing valued at $60 was stolen from the apartment of Jesse Hartwell, No. 4623 Haverford avenue. A false key was used by thieves who ransacked the home of Jennie Jackson, No. 50 North Third street, and stole clothing valued at $75. Fifteen pairs of trousers valued at $55 were stolen by thieves who climbed through a skylight on the roof of the store of A. Karman, No. 1104 Market street.

Automobile Thefts.

The $5000 automobile of W. H. Hollar, No. 424 Chestnut street, was stolen from Fifty-ninth and Green streets. C. F. Hirsh, No. 128 South Forty-ninth street, reported the theft of his $2400 machine from Fifty-fourth and Edgewood streets. The automobile of L. H. Kimmelman, No. 1954 Godfrey street, valued at $1000, was stolen from Eighth and Market streets. The $1000 machine of E. Z. Cole, Forty-third and Chestnut streets, was stolen from Sixteenth and Wallace streets.

Helen K. Stevenson, No. 5961 Drexel road, reported the theft of her $900 automobile from Sixteenth and Market streets. The $500 car of I. J. Abramson, No. 329 South Fifth street, was stolen from in front of his residence. K. G. Tschopp, No. 5125 North Tenth street, reported the theft of his $250 machine from Broad street and Euclid avenue.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. RECORD
APRIL 9, 1925

BANDITS GETTING ACTIVE AGAIN

Held Up Two Butcher Shops, But Were Scared From One by Woman's Screams.

A white girl was murdered in Brooklyn and three Negroes were picked up on suspicion. One of them was married to a white woman. That in itself would have been sufficient to get him lynched in some barbarous county like Florida, Georgia or Carolina. But the New York police have actually turned these Negroes loose because their alibis were perfect. Can you imagine such an action on the part of the police in Tulsa, Memphis or Birmingham? And further, these curious New York police are even saying that a white man might have committed the crime. Just think of that—as if a white man could be guilty of such a crime! Why, it's contrary to everything we've ever been told!

Pittsburgh Courier
6-13-25

JURY FINDS MEN GUILTY IN BEATING

Atrocity of Guards in North Carolina Prison Camp Bared — Body of Dead Man Mute Evidence of Torture.

ROCKY MOUNT, June 11. —W. C. Gulley, road foreman, and R. V. Tyler, guard, both white, were blamed by the coroner's jury for the death of Joseph Armstrong, colored convict, who died Wednesday after a whipping administered by the two men.

Pittsburgh Courier
6-13-25

"We find that Joe Armstrong came to his death as the result of blows inflicted on his body and head by sticks and a whip in the hands of W. C. Gulley and R. V. Tyler," read the verdict returned by the jury, composed of C. L. Bonney, Geo. T. Burnette, J. D. Higgins, J. H. Woodard, R. Guthrie, and J. P. Speight, local citizens, following an investigation Thursday afternoon.

The inquest conducted at the prison camp of the Rocky Mount road district, located on the outskirts of this city, was presided over by Dr. H. Lee Large, city health officer and acting coroner, who with two other local physicians performed an autopsy over the dead man's body Wednesday night.

With the finding of the verdict, the two men blamed for the slaying, who were arrested immediately after the autopsy and held in jail here throughout the day, were turned over to Sheriff Martin of Eugecombe county, as the fatal whipping occurred in that county about 10 miles from this city where the convict force was engaged in road construction work. Local authorities communicated with Solicitor Donnell Gilliam at Tarboro over long distance telephone.

The Solicitor indicated a vigorous prosecution, although he did not state what charges would be formally preferred against the two prison camp guards. Evidence recited at the coroner's inquest by four other road camp guards and one prisoner who were called as witnesses carried one back to the middle ages and the days of the Spanish inquisition. These witnesses—and no one heard the other testify—asserted that the man was severely beaten with both a stick and a heavy whip by the two accused men, that his prostrate form, heavily shackled, was hitched to a pair of mules and dragged for approximately 75 yards. Then when the man failed to get up when ordered it was testified, one of the guards struck him with his fist. He staggered to his feet, it was stated, but after a feeble effort reeled to the ground again and died about 30 minutes after the whipping.

Whipped for Thirty Minutes

Witnesses agreed that the whipping administered to the convict lasted for approximately thirty minutets and offered as the sole reason for the flogging the excuse that "He wasn't working fast enough." Testimony was to the effect that Gulley first beat him with what was described as a hickory stick, four or five feet long about an inch in diameter at the butt and tapering down. Tyler came along, it was testified, and took up the beating of the prostrate form, using what was described as a plaited lash on a staff two or three feet long and about an inch and a half at the butt.

Witnesses stated he whipped the prisoner with the lash and then struck him several blows over the head with the staff, breaking that object in two. They testified that he offered no resistance.

"They," testified the witnesses, then hitched Armstrong to a pair of mules and dragged his form for about 75 yards to where another gang was at work and that when the man failed to get to his feet when ordered promptly one of the men struck him with his fist. One of the other guards, who declared he told Gulley, his superior, to "use some judgment," testified he had his men carry the man out of the road, but he died before anything could be done.

The dead man had been in the camp for only several days, having been sent there from the local recorder's court for thirty days on a hobbing charge.

Crime-1925.

Tennessee,

Memphis, Tenn. And Her Murder Record

The City Fathers of Memphis Tennessee, are greatly disturbed over the publicity that city has gotten as the champion murder center of these United States. In that southern metropolis last year the records show that 113 men and women met violent death. Computed on the basis of government figures, this city had a rate of 61.8 murders per 100,000 population.

Wm. N. Jones

However, it has not been the murders themselves which caused alarm to Memphians, but the PUBLICITY WHICH DRIVES AWAY BUSINESS.

Several years ago when mob violence reached its peak in this section with the roasting alive of Ell Person before an audience of several hundred men, women and children, big financial institutions in the money centers began to curtail credits and much of the best labor began to leave. In desperation the Chamber of Commerce grasped the reigns of government in an effort to stem the tide.

The continued high murder rate there, however, shows that they are still reaping the whirlwind of licensed lawlessness sown throughout past years.

In defense of that city Mayor Rowlette Payne and Mr. Bolton Smith, a climatized financier from the north whose conscience has always been struggling against local wrongs, are said to put forth the argument that the rate should not be counted against them because most of the homicides were by "nonresidents and Negroes."

This statement in itself sheds the whitest light on the situation. When a mayor of a city and its leading reformer can classify murder according to color, what must be the attitude of the masses of whites?

Memphis Has Peculiar Background

To get the real cause of the high murder rate in that city, however, you must go back into its structural history. Memphis is the converging center of the Mississippi Delta. In the early days of Tennessee, outlaws and renegrades from the more law abiding eastern section of the state sought refuge in the sparsely settled Delta. Licentious and criminal whites who had to flee other sections came there and many of the old and respected families date back ot such beginnings.

That is why that despite the insatiate racial prejudice existing there you find in the Mississippi Delta, the widest and most flagrant miscengenation between the races. Nowhere on the face of the earth is its equal.

Memphis has been the converging center where white men, grown wealthy from the blood money squeezed out of enslaved peons on isolated plantations, have debauched with their almost white mistresses which in many cases they set up in regal style.

Some of the most pretentious homes in the colored section of the city are owned by the mistresses of these men.

Out of this situation has grown an ever flaming hatred and vindictiveness on the part of white women and colored men who had to stand by and witness this carnage of immorality helpless.

Thus the white wife of her licentious husband breathed the spirit of hatred into her offspring and the man of colored race drove brotherly love from their hearts and souls.

With this background Memphis is still struggling. Her present city fathers, put into office by a combination of best whites and colored are faced with the stalking ghost of a lawless past.

Their salvation lies, not in suppressing the symptoms; not in racial distinction in judging crime but in meeting honestly the condition and setting themselves about the task of digging out the roots of the evils that make Memphis the champion murder city of the country.

Deps and the Poor.

The general character of the county court is higher than it has been for a great many years.

About 10 years ago former Sheriff Tate began a war on grasping deputy sheriffs, who were serving in magistrates' courts. In those days most all the country magistrates moved into the city and did a criminal business. One of the good things the old machine did was to reduce some of the districts and abolish some of the rotten burroughs. For some time the business of exploiting ignorant negroes fell off.

We have had a recrudescence of this business lately. We have heard of negroes in league with magistrate's deputies getting up a festival in the country and starting a little game and then at a signal let the raiders come on.

In a recent trial in the criminal court it was shown that some of these deputies try these cases. The innocent are caught with the guilty, but all have to pay out.

If these trials are legitimate part of the fee should go to the state or county.

Now they are talking of abolishing one of the districts. They might as well for the good of the district. One of the magistrates has his office in Memphis. We have other magistrates from the far end of the county camped in Memphis and doing a criminal business.

Exploiting poor white people and negroes by alleged officers of the law is a poor sort of business. It is a little bit lower than body snatching.

It is small wonder that the negroes move away when these conditions exist. They may be hopping out of a frying pan into a fire, but still a man with a pain on both sides will turn over in the hope of relief.

Our higher courts have established a fine record for cleanliness and thoroughness. They are punishing criminals with a regularity that is refreshing. Our magistrates' courts should be the same. Most of them are.

CONDEMNED NEGRO IS GIVEN RESPITE PENDING PROBE

Cookeville, Tenn., August 31.—Federal Judge John J. Gore, today granted the petition of Charles Barr, Memphis negro, condemned to die at Nashville September 3, for the murder of W. O. Spencer, for a writ of habeas corpus against A. A. McCorkle, warden of the Tennessee penitentiary, and Barr's execution will be deferred until the proceedings in the state court are reviewed. Hearing on the petition will be held here next Saturday.

Barr, charged with the murder of Spencer and the wounding of a young woman companion on a Shelby county highway, alleged in his petition that he was convicted on a confession obtained from him in violation of his constitutional rights, being questioned several days and nights without rest, beaten with a rubber hose and the bloody collar of the slain man placed around his neck. Barr's sentence of electrocution at the state penitentiary in Nashville on September 3 was recently affirmed by the state supreme court.

Nashville, Tenn., August 31.—Chief Justice Grafton Green and Justice W. L. Cook, of the supreme court, today requested Governor Peay to respite Robert Tate under sentence to die September 3 for the alleged murder of A. W. Condra, Marion county merchant, until a letter written by R. L. Walters, alleged accomplice, under 30-year sentence, can be investigated. In the letter Walter said he fired the shot killing the merchant.

BODY SEARCH ILLEGAL.

Negro Freed In Pistol Case Because Officer Had No Warrant.

When a police officer searched Louis Yoe, negro, and searched him for a pistol he violated the rules of search and seizure, Judge Harsh ruled yesterday when he granted Yoe a new trial and then dismissed the case at the cost of the county.

Yoe had the pistol in his shirt bosom, the proof showed. The officer stopped him in the street, asked him if he had a gun and proceeded to search the negro. The officer found the pistol and arrested Yoe.

The officer testified that he had no search warrant, and that his only authority for searching the negro was the latters' admission that he had the pistol and the officer's own suspicions.

Notwithstanding this, the jury found Yoe guilty and left his punishment to the discretion of the court. Judge Harsh decided yesterday that under recent rulings of the supreme court the search of Yoe and seizure of his pistol was an unlawful search and seizure and that the evidence thus procured could not be used against him.

Crime—1925.

Tennessee.

NEGROES SPEAK AGAINST CRIME

Carry Campaign Into Community Centers of Race.

During the past week the colored interracial league has waged an intensive campaign against crime. With a flying squadron of three speakers, Rev. J. L. Campbell, A. L. McCargo and J. B. Boyd, headed by the chairman of the league, Rev. T. O. Fuller, negro community centers have been visited and anti-crime speeches delivered.

Mass meetings have been held every night in different wards and a crusade against pistols, whisky, razors, knives and other weapons has been carried to the door of every negro in Memphis.

A feature of the drive is the startling posters carried through the negro settlements by the committeemen. One tells that 54 negroes were slain by members of their race last year. Another pleads for a reduction of crime, while another has affixed to it blood besmeared pistols, knives and razors in a circle around a bottle of whisky.

The intensive drive will continue The inter-racial league is determined to break up homicides among the large negro population of Memphis and thus materially aid in lowering the city's murder record.

NEGRO LEADERS PLAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME

Discuss Homicide Record Among Own Race—Set Week For Move.

Declaring the death rate among negroes in cities exceeded the birth rate, Rev. Sutton Griggs, negro minister, at a meeting of negro leaders called Saturday morning by Judge Clifford Davis, pleaded with fellow members of his race to aid in reducing the negro homicide record in Memphis.

Judge Davis had invited negro ministers, teachers, and business men to meet with him and discuss methods of curbing crime in Memphis. He presented startling facts about the negro race, saying that during 1924 in Memphis, 54 negroes had killed 54 of their own color. Of these murders, 27 grew out of illicit love affairs, as compared to three that came from legal marriages. The pistol was used 48 times to take human life by members of the race. Judge Davis asked the negroes to take it upon themselves to put an end to this wanton waste of life.

LEADERS RESPOND.

The negro leaders responded with enthusiasm to Judge Davis' request. Rev. T. O. Fuller, of Howe institute, chairman of the Colored General Welfare committee, a negro civic body, assured the judge that they would do all in their power to help lower the Memphis homicide record. Rev. Fuller told of plans perfected by the committee for a Crime Prevention week, Feb. 3-9.

Rev. Sutton Griggs presented statistics to show how the negro race was contributing to its own destruction by killings of negroes by negroes. He stated that the future of the negro race was in lowering its death rate.

MUST REMOVE CAUSES.

To stop crime you must first remove its causes, was the opinion of Rev. S. W. Broome, negro pastor and editor of "The Memphis Times," negro newspaper. He assured Judge Davis that he and all his people were willing and ready to help the police and court officials remove from Memphis the stigma of being the murder capital of the world.

Police Commissioner T. H. Allen told the negroes that police would help them in their endeavor. He also told of plans for improving living conditions in the negro subdivisions.

Memphis negroes are the first of their race to band together and make a concerted effort to fight crime. With their help, Commissioner Allen and Judge Davis hope to cut Memphis' homicide record in half this year.

Burns Detective Springs Sensation Following Months of Operation

Although the body of Maurice F. Mayes has long since turned to dust, following the play of thousands of volts of electricity through his body more than two years ago, while seated in the electric chair which the state has established and where all persons are given the death penalty following their conviction of capital crimes, there are those by the hundreds, especially in the city of Knoxville who have always been of the opinion that the young colored man was wholly innocent of the charge of killing the white woman, Mrs. Bertie Lindsay, and earnestly have many watched for some situation to develop that would bring to light the perpetrator of the brutal crime and thereby vindicate the name of Mayes. E. Tennessean News

Now comes Detective "Ed. Jones," agent for the famous Burns detective agency with headquarters at St. Louis, who tells of having operated in this section for many months following the numerous crimes which were committed in Knox county and the adjoining county of Blount, when homes were entered by a marauder at midnight, usually, and women were assaulted and in several instances persons were killed. Detective Jones states that the slayer of Mrs. Bertie Lindsay, whose name has not been made public, probably will be arrested during the next few days. He avers that the guilty person has not been brought to justice. The private investigator, who has been working under cover here since December 27, 1924, claims that the net around the mysterious alleged murderer of Mrs. Lindsay has been woven, and that evidence has been found which will bring the real slayer of the woman to trial.

ARREST BLOUNT COUNTY MAN

The startling announcement of the detective followed the arrest of William Sheffey, white man holding a responsible position at the Alcoa plant of the Aluminum Company of America, on charges preferred by Mrs. Laura Poe. The attack of Mrs. Poe occurred at the Alcoa home during the time that she was in bed with her husband and the husband was shot while attempting to defend the wife from the assault of the marauder. He died from the effects of the wound several weeks later. 4-16-25

The slaying of Mrs. Bertie Lindsay is only one of 32 which are under investigation in Blount and Knox county by the detective agency, according to Detective "Jones".

NEGRO CONFESSES TO KILLING MAN, REPORT

Everett Hedgcoth Slain by Intruder.

Commercial Appeal 4-19-25

NASHVILLE, Tenn. April 18.—John Henry Wallace, young Marshall County negro, landed in jail here Friday by Sheriff J. G. Cromer after a race through four counties with a mob, this afternoon, according to officers, made a confession of participation in the murder of Everett Hedgcoth while attempting to rob the latter's home near Cornersville, Marshall County. Wallace is said to have been in trouble and needed money, which his mother failed to send him. Wallace is quoted as saying that another negro knew that Hedgcoth had considerable money and that they planned to rob the home. The story continues that they had been in the house several minutes before Hedgcoth awoke and that Wallace shot at him when discovered; that when Hedgcoth followed the negroes out of the house the other negro seized the shotgun from Wallace and fired the shots that killed the young farmer. Mrs. Hedgcoth, who was painfully wounded in the shooting, according to Lewisburg reports, will recover.

The statement has appeared in these columns, time and time again, contending for the rigid enforcement of the law and the prompt prescribing of the penalty for law violations, regardless as to who might be involved. If a person is found guilty of violating some law after they will have had a fair and impartial trial in some court of justice, the penalty fitting the offense should be imposed, and that at once.

This publication, like all institutions and persons favoring a law abiding spirit, would not encourage or condone law violations, regardless as to where and by whom such violations were committed. The acts of certain individuals sneaking into business places and appropriating to their own use the goods of the concerns without paying for the same; the too often committed acts of thievery engaged in by individuals employed about business houses should all be exposed and the guilty parties given the extreme punishment, whether they are men or women, boys or girls, white or black. However, because a certain Negro woman is taken in the act of shop-lifting should not cause the idea to prevail that all Negroes are thieves and certainly does not offer a business concern the privilege of directing suspicion toward every person of color that might visit their places of business. E. Tennessee News

In delivering their charges to a jury, most judges make it plain that it would be far better that ninety-nine guilty persons would go unpunished than that one innocent person should suffer punishment, therefore, before an innocent person should be caused to suffer the humiliation of being haled into court and the annoyance and embarrassment of standing trial on a charge of which they are perfectly innocent, the accusers should be certain that they have the guilty party. Such reference is made in connection with the action of the Miller Store Company, one of the city's largest department stores, in arraigning a young colored woman, the mother of a suckling babe, in the courts on a charge of shop-lifting, when there was not a scintilla of evidence to indicate that the girl was guilty of such. Regardless of the standing of Pauline Gillenwaters, she should be protected and if she is not guilty of an offense, she is as much entitled to the protection which the courts afford as the richest and most influential person in the world. The suffering which the young woman, whom the courts declared innocent of charges which a concern of even the magnitude of the Miller Store Company preferred, had to endure, was greater due to the poor circumstances of the girl. She was compelled to pay a bondsman a fee in order that she might come from behind the bars and return to her suckling babe. Further, she had to take hard earned money to employ a lawyer to aid her in establishing her innocence of a charge that was being pushed by a concern worth millions, and pressed as if the young woman had blown a safe in their office and taken therefrom a thousand dollars.. As far as we have been able to learn, not a single penny has been offered the young woman with a view of reimbursing her for the damages that she has suffered as the result of the charges which were preferred against her and notwithstanding the fact that the court has given her a clean bill of health. It looks to us like there are mighty good grouds for a stiff damage suit against the concern.

Unwarranted Shooting Of Negro Unpopular In County Adjoining Knox

Special To The East Tennessee News.

DANDRIDGE, TENN., March 30.—The mob tactics of certain officers of the law in wilfully shooting at and wounding Negroes whom they seek to arrest on frivolous charges, in most instances, the persons fleeing away from the gunmen, received a blow as the result of the decision rendered by the jury in Circuit Court which convened here last week in the case of Chief of Police T. B. Yontz, of Jefferson City, convicted of felonious assault in shooting Elmore Wells, a Negro youth whom he was seeking to arrest on a misdemeanor charge. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and fixed the punishment of Yontz at one year in the state penitentiary.

The evidence showed that Wells, the colored youth was loitering about the railway station with several of his companions, which is customary on the part of the boys in such small towns, when Chief of Police Yontz appeared on the scene. The youths ran in every direction and the officer deliberately fired point blank in the direction of the Wells boy, one of the bullets from his pistol striking him in the back and inflicting a serious wound.. Not only did the colored citizenship of the county exhibit thorough indignation at the unwarranted shooting of what the officer termed a "nigger", but the leading white citizens denounced the act and such was responsible for the conviction of the officer. Plans have been instituted for filing a suit for damages against the officer and his bondsmen.

Convicting.

Wherever it is legalized, convict easing is bad business. It is not the intent of the law that man convicted of crime shall be tortured. The chair has been substituted for the gallows in many states because it was believed that electrocution was quicker and less painful than hanging.

If society is so considerate of one who has committed a crime justifying the death penalty, certainly it will not countenance the torture inflicted by guards and superintendents in some instances on prisoners who have been detected of a petty offense.

When a man is convicted in a municipal, a state or a federal court, he becomes a ward of the law. Only the penalty exacted by the law should be permitted. No prisoner should be delivered into the clutches of an individual or organization that masks avarice and brutality in the garb of justice. Only men who are representatives of the law should be given charge over prisoners, and justices should be sure that such guardians are men, not brutes.

Some of the unfortunates, white and black, who are convicted in minor courts and then turned over to those who lease convict labor, would be better off if they were shot when sentence was pronounced. Being beaten to death with a lash is a slow and tortuous death.

The death of a former service man in a convict camp in Florida more than a year ago aroused the nation. He was convicted on a minor charge, turned over to the tender mercies of a blood money corporation and whipped to death.

Similar occurrences have been reported in other southern states. There was an ugly case reported in St. Francis County, Ark., this week. We commend Judge N. B. Nelson for having served notice that convict leasing in that county is at an end.

Every state in the Union ought to make it unlawful to lease a convict under any circumstances. The system is a disgrace to civilization.

POLICE CHIEF GETS YEAR FOR SHOOTING NEGRO

DANDRIDGE, Tenn., April 8.—A verdict of guilty was returned and a sentence of one year fixed against Chief of Police Yontz of Jefferson City, for the shooting of a colored youth. The boy was said to have been walking along a railroad track with several other youths when Yontz chased them and deliberately shot Elmore Wells in the back.

Crime—1925. Texas.

AUSTIN TEXAS STATESMAN
MAY 6, 1925

HOUSE UPHOLDS 'TRUTH SERUM'

Negro Given Test In Dallas Slaying.

Reports that tests of the guilt of a negro held in connection with the recent Millstead murder in Dallas had failed when scopolamin was applied Tuesday in the Dallas county jail were denied by Dr. R. E. House, discoverer of this property of the drug, here Wednesday. House explained that the test had failed to prove the guilt of the suspect, but had proved his innocence, and predicted the negro would be released. Dr. House is here for the State Medical association meeting.

The negro gave a clear account of how he had spent every minute of his time on the night of the murder, Dr. House said, and spoke in a clear, unhurried voice that convinced those who were listening to him that he was telling the truth.

The drug acts like any other anesthesia, he explained, causing the patient to lose control of all faculties. When the dose is administered just right, the patient loses control of all senses save that of hearing.

"It is always easy to tangle up a liar, but it is impossible with a man telling the truth. In his drugged condition the man simply tells what he knows without hesitation. I tried it out on over 300 women before I got the idea of applying it to criminals, and it has always worked. I have not proved every man guilty, but I had much rather prove a man innocent than guilty.

"Scopolamin is merely a humane third degree. I am not advocating the introduction of testimony secured through its use in court, and I do not want to appear in court. But it will start where fingerprint work leaves off and give the officer a great advantage.

"If I am right in only 10 per cent of the cases, I am still doing as much good as all the police power of the state, for 10 per cent is about as high as they ever run. If I am right in 20 per cent, just one-fifth, of my cases, I am twice as good."

Of the 74 cases where the drug has been used, not one has ever been proved false, Dr. House said, though one negro who was convicted maintained his innocence and is now awaiting a new trial on a reversal.

Dr. House told of several cases in which he had used the drug and uncovered facts that were later corroborated. "Not long ago I gave a 17-year-old boy a dose in Dallas," he said. "He was accused of blowing safes. Under the drug, he told of the crime, giving the names of his accomplices, and also told of several other 'jobs' they had been in. While drugged he crawled into an iron ventilator door and asked what it was.

◆ ◆ ◆

"Run, You Blankety Blanks!"

"'That's a safe door,' I told him. 'Get the combination.'"

"He at once began to call off numbers. Just at that time an automobile tire blew out on the street outside the open window and the boy began to try to run and called: 'Run, you blankety blanks, run!' Investigation proved he was telling the truth."

His greatest trouble is in obtaining volunteers from the jails to submit to the test, though he has had several men to plead for it, Dr. House said. He will continue his medical practice at Ferris, he said, until the people of the state are convinced of the worth of his find.

WILL SPEAK TONIGHT.

Students of Austin Senior and Junior High schools especially are invited to hear Dr. R. E. House, Ferris, speak at the First Presbyterian church, at 7:45 this Wednesday night on "Christianity and Criminology."

EMPLOYING VIOLENCE ON PRISONERS.

The Informer has always contended that it is rarely necessary for police or constabulary officers to employ force and violence in effecting an arrest, or to beat up and maltreat their prisoners at the police station.

Houston Informer
9-26-25

In arresting a colored woman on San Felipe Street some days ago, the daily papers of the city carried a news story to the effect that the officers were threatened by a crowd of Negroes and that a race riot almost started as a consequence of the arrest by the officers and threats upon the lives of the officers by the Negroes.

These newspapers also reported that one colored man was arrested and placed in jail for his leading role in the "near race riot" and that he would probably be indicted for trying to "incite a riot."

But all of these papers and the police officers failed to tell the truth in and about the matter, according to eye-witnesses, who stated that the officers, in arresting the race woman, (who was not a vagrant as reported in the daily press) beat and kicked her unmercifully, until some colored man remonstrated with the officers for the employment of such violence, which occasioned his arrest.

As for the crowd, every arrest on San Felipe or any other street in Houston is the occasion or signal for a large crowd to gather instanter.

A few days later another local police officer shot a fleeing prisoner, the race man (who was deaf and dumb) dying from the wounds; the officer justifying his act by claiming that the colored mute drew back a rock to hurl at him.

This officer, according to his version in the daily newspapers, stated that when the colored man drew back the rock, he shot at him, and then when the race man began to run from the officer, the peace officer shot at the fleeing man until he fell mortally wounded.

Despite the fact that the colored man only had a rock (which he never threw at the officer), while the officer had his trusted gat in his hand, the officer and white newspapers contend that he shot the Negro because the latter was resisting arrest and threatening the officer's life.

Even granting that the missile would have injured the officer, had same been hurled by the black man and landed a solid blow upon the minion (?) of the law, did not the danger of any violence upon said officer sease when the colored man turned his back to the officer and began to run from him?

If the Negro mute was such a vicious and hard-boiled character that the peace (?) officer was afraid to tackle him without the employment of force, why did not this police officer deputize some passing motorist (the shooting occurred on a paved highway leading out of Houston) to assist him in arresting this man?

A police officer has no more right to shoot a fleeing man than a citizen has, particularly when the man had done no more than this unfortunate colored mute had done. He was a suspect, had been previously arrested, it is alleged, had made his escape, and was resting beneath a box car when the officer approached him.

Here is a man slain in cold blood and the fact that a police officer committed the act, does not mitigate the circumstances one whit, but rather aggravates and intensifies the situation; for no peace officer has a right to use force and violence upon a prisoner unless said officer's life is in immediate jeopardy, and then he is only to employ only such force as necessary to remove the danger of physical violence to himself at the hands of the arrested party.

The police officers of Houston are entirely too quick on the trigger and employ too much unnecessary and unwarranted force in arresting prisoners, especially members of the colored race.

The Informer was hopeful once that the present superintendent of police was going to put an end to or minimize such brutalities and employment of physical violence among the men on Houston's police force; but it seems that certain influences have been exerted and brought to bear since the C. N. Love incident at the local police station and we hear no more about turning in the badge when an officer strikes a prisoner, or even a suspension or reprimand.

If this condition continues uninterrupted and unchecked, it is as sure to lead to serious consequences as water is to flow down the hill.

If the mayor, city commissioners, civil service commission and chief of police will not act to stop such stunts, then it is time for the grand jury of Harrs County to step in and put a stop to such outrages and miscarriages of justice, if it necessitates the reorganization of the entire police department; for a "stitch in time will save nine."

Crime – 1925.

Texas.

Horrible Tale of Brutality In Texas State Penitentiary Is Told by Former Prisoner

Former Notorious Confidence Man Stamped To Death By Guard, He Tells Probe Committee.

Austin, Texas, February 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—A tale of brutality, accounting for the deaths of four prisoners, verified in part by officials, was unfolded today before the joint legislative penitentiary investigating committee by Dr. E. H. Boaz, Memphis, Texas, a former prisoner, nephew of a Methodist bishop, who said he testified in "the interest of humanity."

The death of Joe Furey, a prisoner stamped to death, it was charged, beneath the feet of a guard, formed the peak of Dr. Boaz's story of cruelty.

Others who met violent deaths in the prison, according to testimony, were C. F. Dillard, "General Mills," an aged negro, and an unidentified negro.

The witness said Dillard bled to death as a result of a "mistaken operation." "General Mills" he charged, "was poisoned" and the negro, whose name he could not recall, received a broken neck when a guard struck him with an iron singletree.

Tells of Inside Conditions.

He told of punishment inflicted on prisoners who "talked too freely on conditions," of drunkenness within the prison, where he charged "the current rates for bootleg were less than on the outside," of thefts of farm products and groceries, the disappearance of drugs and plumbing supplies.

Dr. Boaz testified he is the nephew of Bishop H. A. Boaz, of the Methodist church, South, whose home is in Dallas. The doctor was sent to the penitentiary on a plea of guilty to manslaughter.

A subtle fear, which is said to come over prisoners, preventing them from reporting acts of cruelty within the prison walls, was described by the witness. It was this fear that prevented him from reporting these things while he was a prisoner, he said.

"I bear no grudge," he said. "They treated me fairly while I was there. But the system is wrong. The prison commissioners are gentlemen, but they cannot see everything that goes on."

Tells of Furey's Treatment.

Joe Furey was a member of the confidence gang which fleeced Frank Norfleet, Hale county sheriff, of $45,000. Norfleet resigned his office and pursued members of the gang all over the country, finally landing all of them in prison.

"Furey was given only one meal a week," said Dr. Boaz. "For fear the man would starve to death, I slipped him scraps of food. I saw him a few hours before he died. A guard plunged him head first into a bath tub of cold water, and when he was almost drowned, he dragged him out and beat him over the head with a club, then threw him on the floor and stamped him to death."

Dr. Boaz said Dillard had bled to death when a doctor in charge plunged an aspirating needle into his side, ostensibly to draw fluid from the lungs, but that arterial blood flowed from the needle. Within a few hours Dillard died, he said.

Dr. Boaz said he had refused to give "medicine" to an aged negro when he discovered it to be bichloride of mercury. He said a hospital steward gave the negro the "medicine" and that the negro died two days later.

NEW

Texas Uses Big Strap on Convicts but Arrests Negro Who Used it on His Mule

It's all right to beat convicts in Texas with the big leather "bat," State Representative T. K. Irwin, of Dallas, is seen holding here. The law allows it. But a Negro to whom Irwin gave the strap was arrested for cruelty to animals when he lashed his mule with it. Irwin is fighting for the abolition of the flogging system.

FREEMAN PUBLISHER BEATEN BY OFEICERS AT POLICE STATION

Charles Norvel Love, Veteran Quill Pusher, Arrested as Narcotic Suspect—Had Been to Collect Newspaper Account From Building Under Surveillance By Federal Sleuth—Carried to Police Station—Assaulted and Brutally Beaten By Police Officers When He Refused to Remove His Hat-Marked "Hold" and Denied Bond—Finally Released.

LATEST BULLETIN

Editor Charles N. Love was re-arrested Wednesday night, the officers who arrested him the first time (last Saturday) having preferred charges against him for "abusive language." He was arrested at his residence on Meyer Street and carried to city prison and compelled to make $200 appearance bond in said cause.

Already the game of "passing the buck" is being employed in local police circles, and the latest arrest of Mr. Love looks like a "frame-up" pure and simple. Why did these officers wait until Love had given his version of his original arrest and beating to a local daily, before preferring their charges?

Arrested as a narcotic suspect, in that he was seen leaving a building under surveillance by federal sleuths, Charles Norvel Love, veteran publisher and editor of The Texas Freeman, was ordered arrested while on Travis Street last Saturday afternoon; the arrest coming after Love had refused to submit to search and seizure by a federal officer, who saw the race editor coming from a building where he had been to collect some money owed him.

It seems that the federal officer had been watching a cerain building for drug addicts and narcotic fiends, having been tipped off that the dope was being sold in said building. When Editor Love emerged from the building, where he had been on business matter(everybody who knows Charles Love knows he is no drug addict or dope fiend) the federal sleuth wanted to arrest him, demanding to know what he was doing coming from that building, it is alleged.

Editor Love, in his curt way, handing a warrant before subgo him told that his mission wasmitting to arrest.
strictly a business one and that He went on his way and the
the officer had no right to arrestfederal officer followed him, it is
him on such flimsy pretext, de-said, and instructed the traffic
cop at Travis and Texas to "arrest that nigger." The city bastile.
When Editor Love entered the tax payer and saw no reasonfor Captain Kessler, and an officer complied with the fed-sion of the affair, he approached no ladies were present. This re-this law-abiding and peaceful eral officer's instruction and the sergeant's desk with his hat ply was met with a blow from citizen another fierce blow in the escorted the aged editor to the on and was immediately told to some police officer, felling the face.
aged publisher; whereupon The editor was then marked
take it off. He kindly informed veteran pu

"hold" and placed behind the bars and all early efforts to make bond for him met with dismal failure; even turning down R. L. Andrews, a retired business man and capitalist, whose wealth is estimated in six figures and who pays taxes around four figures. He was finally released at 11 o'clock.

At hour of going to press no information has been gathered as to just what action either the chief, municipal civil service commission, mayor, or grand jury has taken regarding this unwarranted unprovoked and brutal attack upon a peaceful citizen and the humiliaton suffered because of his false incarceration.

Most colored citizens are of the opinion that it affords the chief, mayor, grand jury and inter-racial commission an opportunity to see just where they stand on such outrages and demonstrations of "Hunnish kultur;" for they (these colored citizens and tax payers) are unanimous in their opinion that the time has come when a stop must be put to police officers beating up colored citizens just because the colored citizens will not doff their hats when entering the city jail, while men of other races keep their hats on their heads.

AACO TEX HERALD
MARCH 13, 1925

Negro Caught Stealing Acetelyne Generator At Blacksmith Shop

A negro was caught in the act of disconnecting an acetelyne tank from the torches at the Fischer and Wilhelm blacksmith shop, 225 Washington avenue, about 11:30 o'clock Thursday night, and captured by Clarence Fischer, son of W. G. Fischer, part owner of the place.

Fischer, passing by the shop, noticed the flashes of a flashlight and, getting a revolver, searched the place for sometime before coming upon the intruder, hiding on the floor.

The negro was hemmed in a corner and held until policemen arrived. In a truck waiting outside was found an acetelyne generator tank, later identified as belonging to W. J. Dorsett 711 Franklin avenue.

A man and woman found sleeping in a car in front of the 300 block on North Eighth street about 3 o'clock Friday morning were arrested as suspicious characters by Policemen Pierce and Carlisle. In searching their car two quarts of whiskey, a flask, several suit cases of clothes, a handbag of shoes, necklaces, cards and other trinkets.

Cops Fired And Suspended

Houston, Tex.—One policeman has been fired and another suspended on the charge of striking Charles Love, negro editor of the Texas Freeman, when he refused to take his hat off in the police station.

NEGRO TO DIE

BROWNWOOD, TEXAS, June 2.—John Smith, negro, is today scheduled to die in the electric chair for the killing of Sheriff Dick Parley of Coleman county, two weeks ago. The jury deliberated 18 minutes.

HILLSBORO TEXAS HERALD
JUNE 3, 1925

Crime Record of Two Negroes.

The two negroes Frank and Lorenzo Noel, given the death penalty in Dallas today, have a long record of brutal crimes, and of the two, Frank is said to be the real bad man, who induced and encouraged his brother, Lorenzo, in his brutal crimes. It is said the negroes began in a small way as hijackers, and became bolder with each successive crime until they became fearless rapists and killers. It is believed the blacks had been preying on motorists for a month or more before their reign of terror became officially brought to the attention of the authorities on the night of March 28th, when E. Vernon Wood and his companion, Miss Jewel Young, reported that they had been attacked and robbed by a pair of negroes on a dark road near the Lakewood country club. They dragged Wood from the car and slugging him over the head left him unconscious. The girl was painfully beaten and bruised in her efforts to resist them when they took her watch and ring.

On the same night the blacks also held up Robert Perry, assistant district attorney, on a nearby road, and started to slug him but desisted when he handed over his money.

Thirteen days later Frank Noel alone held up and robbed J. P. Mahon.

Two days after this, the blacks slipped up on an automobile in which Ryan Adkins and Mrs. Mary Steer were sitting. Frank Noel thrust his pistol in the car window and ordered Adkins out of the car. After removing Adkins' valuables one of the negroes struck Adkins over the head with a hammer, killing him instantly. Pitching the body into the car with Mrs. Steer, they drove it down the road, steered it over an embankment and leaped out as the car crashed from the road. Fortunately for Mrs Steer the car caught on a shelf. Mrs Steer reported the outrage to the police and the search for the brutes began.

While the man hunt was on, Frank Noel left home without his brother on the night of April 25, thirteen days after the Adkins crime, and embarked on his last and most brutal crime. Seeing a man and woman seated in a small coupe near the Goodwin street intersection with the H. & T. C. railway in Vickery place, he slipped up on them. The man, Larry Milstead, was ordered out of the car, and then shot through the heart with a pistol. Jumping into the car with Milstead's companion, Mrs. Mabel Berry of Austin, Noel, warning her to keep quiet, drove out on the old Greenville road, turned off at the first cross road, and pointing to a clump of bushes said, "That is to be your grave. The woman was assaulted twice, then struck over the head with the pistol and her body thrown in the brush and left for dead. After a long wait, Mrs. Berry staggered to a nearby house and reported the outrage.

After the negroes had been arrested and identified, public indignation was at white heat in Dallas and a mob attacked the county jail, but was repulsed. Not, however, before several were wounded, one youth having since died from wounds received. The dead youth is said to have been a spectator at the attack on the jail.

"MA" FERGUSON EXTENDING HAND OF MERCY TO TEXAS CONVICTS

AUSTIN, Tex., June 22.—Governor Miriam Ferguson has begun a series of investigations with the aid of the state pardon board which it is hoped will result in the freeing of some 30 or 40 prisoners, all colored, who have been given unduly long prison terms for slight misdemeanors.

This action on the part of the governor grows out of a recent visit to the state penitentiary and the prison farms where she discovered the startling state of affairs. In examining the prison records on her trip the governor discovered that one aged colored prisoner had been sentenced to four months and a fine of $100 which he was working out for no greater crime than failing to stop and render assistance to a white motorist who had met with an accident. Another had been sentenced to a year for fighting in a public square.

Governor Ferguson took up the matter of pardoning these unfortunates with the state's attorney and the pardon board immediately after her trip to Holton. The Pardon Board has been working overtime investigating the records of these colored prisoners and it is expected that nearly 40 will be freed.

Y. C. EVENING WORLD
JULY 3, 1925

NEGRO BROTHERS HANGED IN TEXAS

Men Who Caused Dallas Jail Riot Put to Death

HUNTSVILLE, Texas, July 3 (A. P.)—Frank and Lorenzo Noel, Negro brothers, were executed at the State Penitentiary shortly after midnight for criminally assaulting a white woman near Dallas last April.

Frank Noel was also charged with the murder of W. L. Milestead and with criminal assault on Mrs. Mabel Berry and with robbing of Vernon Wood and Miss Jewel Young and of J. P. Mahon.

An attempt by a mob on May 20 to take the Negroes from the Dallas jail failed when extra officers and firemen were called out. One man was shot and killed during the disturbance.

"TRUTH SERUM" TEST.

Texas Suspect Describes Assault With Club and Robbery.

TEXARKANA, Ark., Aug. 7.—What is regarded as a highly successful administration of the so-called "truth serum" was made yesterday afternoon at Mount Pleasant, Texas, [illegible] the insane [illegible] Texas counties by Dr. R. E. House of Dallas. The drug, scopolamine, frequently used in obstetrical cases, was administered to Gus McCoy held for investigation in connection with the killing of J. A. Rowell, Sr., near Jefferson in Marion County, late last fall.

While under the influence of the drug McCoy is said to have described how Howell was hit on the head with a club and his keys and money taken from his pockets.

McCoy has been under suspicion for some time, but yesterday's test was the first concrete evidence the authorities were able to gain concerning the murder.

Crime - 1925. Virginia.

OTHER SANCTUMS.

Is This Justice?

In the report of the same court, on the same day, we noted these two items. An old Negro was sent to the roads for six months for stealing some shoes and a white man was fined fifty dollars for being convicted of bootlegging.

The black man was convicted of petty larceny. We do not know his provocation, but it was cold and the old man may have needed the shoes. Of course stealing must be stopped and he should have been punished.

The white man was guilty of violating an amendment to the Constitution of his country and by law was a traitor and a conspirator. He not only became a traitor to his country but he committed a crime that carried poison and ruin to the ones who bought his liquor. In the case of the black man he did not hurt any one else, except to deprive the owner of the shoes of their value.

The black man will work—work a long time to pay the State for his crime. And he will be confined where he cannot steal any more shoes, even if he so desires.

The white bootlegger is free to carry on his fiendish business of ruining more lives and dishonoring the Constitution, and he can make enough in a back alley in one night to pay his fine and have all the other nights for himself.

Is this sort of sentence justice? We do not mean any contempt of court, but somehow we are muddled up about it.

—*Richmond Christian Advocate.*

Dr. Rowland, the able editor of the *Richmond Advocate*, speaks out "in meetin" on the inequality of punishment meted out to wrong doers. This editor knows an instance where a Negro man got a long penitentiary sentence for stealing a ham and a white murderer of a black man was acquitted, even when the evidence showed he shot his victim while asleep. It is just these kinds of antics that cause men of color to lose faith in American courts. Marcus Garvey gets 5 years, deportation and a "railroading" to Atlanta for the aleged crime of using the mails to defraud while Col. Forbes gets a much less term for alleged crime of defrauding the government and sick soldiers out of nearly several million dollars.—G. C. P.

An Experiment That Paid

Norfolk Journal & Guide 2-9-25

The startling revelations brought to light during the recent investigations of the local traffic in narcotic drugs emphatically justified the government's experiment of sending an Afro-American agent to explore certain phases of the Norfolk situation. While he did not succeed in tearing up root and branch of the traffic, which in some of its aspects enjoys the benefit of intrenchment flowing from years of practical immunity, Federal Agent Clifford made inroads upon the local traffic heretofore regarded as impregnable by the dope dealers and addicts.

The main obstacle to approach of the drug dealers' strongholds has been the color of the investigators. Reviewing the ramifications of the local drug traffic the Federal Agent concludes that colored persons engaged in the nefarious business have almost immunized themselves against detection and arrest by the simple expedient of refusing in any way to deal with white persons in carrying on their illegal trade. Knowing that in the South all representatives of the law are white persons, these criminals safeguard themselves by adoptinng a no-trade rule with any man in whom the law might be personified. In that way it has been made exceedingly difficult for the regular Federal officers to ferret out the leaders in the traffic, and it has grown to enormous proportions, spreading its tentacles over the populace in an alarming manner, boastful and arrogant in its apparent immunity.

Experimenting with a colored investigator the government corralled ten of the principal operators in the first raid as a result of his disclosures. There is every reason to believe that if this policy is carried out vigorously, in Norfolk and in other Southern cities, a marked decrease in the traffic in narcotic drugs will be noted.

In practically every instance where it has been tried it has been proved that law enforcement among certain groups is strengthened by the employment of men belonging to the particular race group which it is desired to reach. This fact should outweigh all other considerations in the enforcement of law and the suppression of crime, for the best interests of society depend more upon these factors than upon the doubtful political expediency of keeping men of a certain racial group out of the law enforcement machinery.

The government has set a wholesome precedent which might be followed with profit by our municipal and State organizations in the reduction of the drug evil, the illicit traffic in whiskey and associated crime.